
Licens'd and Enter'd according
to Order.

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Law, Cuckold making, and Bad Wives, we see,
Three of the greatest Plagues to Mankind be.

The Honest
LONDON SPY,

Discovering the Base and Subtle
Intregues of the TOWN.

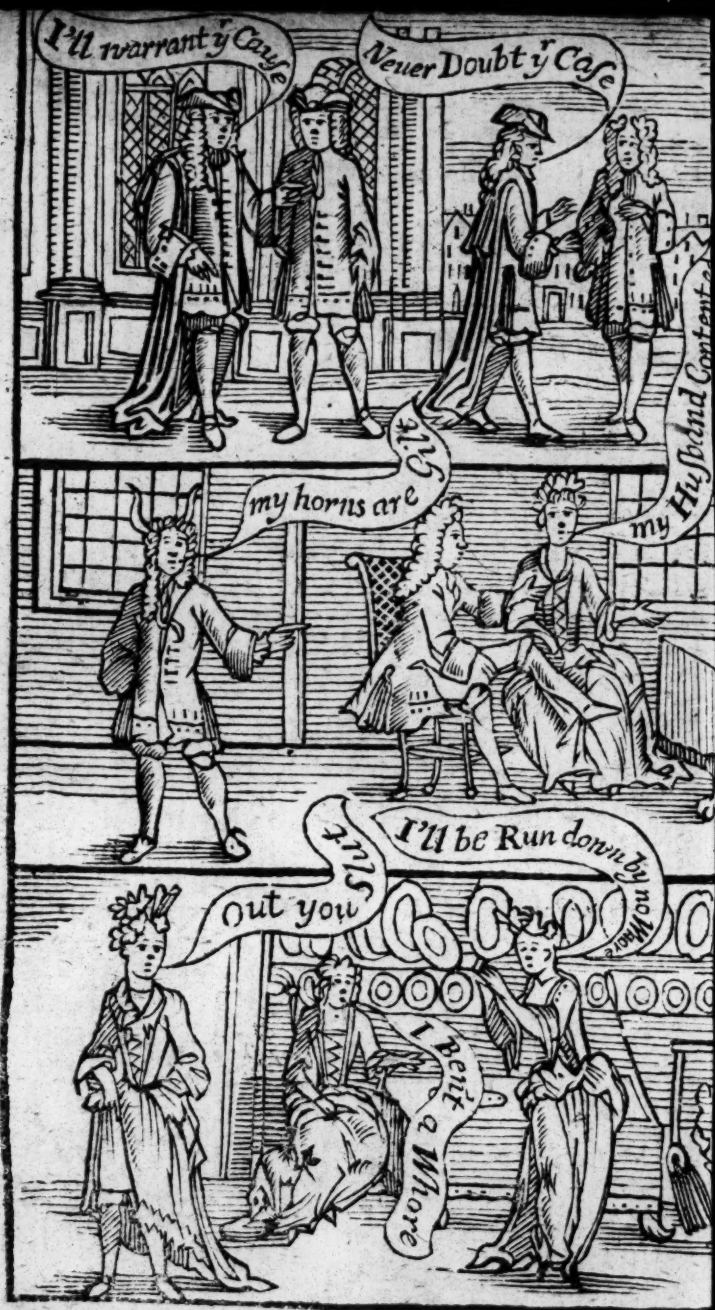
PART I

In Several
Witty and Ingenious Dialogues ;
BETWEEN

- I. A *Normich* Weaver, his Factor in *London*,
and their two sharpening Attorneys.
- II. A Linnen-Draper's Prentice, his Miss,
and her Landlady.
- III. A Contented Cuckold, his Wife, and
her Gallant.
- IV. A Batchelor, a Widdower, and a Mar-
ried Man, about chusing a Good Wife :
With the several sorts of Good Wives :
And, the Character of a Scold, a Slur,
and a Whore.

To which is added
A Short POEM in praise of a
SINGLE LIFE.

*London: Printed for Robert Gifford in Old Bed-
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K

The *Town-Spy* :

O R,

The Devil's Factors discover'd.

P A R T I

DIALOGUE I.

*Between Mr. Wilful, a Norwich Weaver,
and Mr. Crosbe, his Factor in London,
with Mr. Makebate a Country Attor-
ney, and Mr. Trouble-town, an At-
ney in London.*

*Enter Mr. Wilful, a Norwich Weaver,
reading of a Letter from his Factor
in London.*

— **F** O R my part I can take my Oath,
and so can my Servant too, that
I received no more than 135
Pieces of Stuff since our last reckoning; and

A 3

why

2 *A Norwich Weaver, his Factor,*
why I shou'd answer for 140, I know net.
— I don't care for Law, but before I will
pay for five pieces of Stuff in my own wrong,
I will spend five hundred Pound. —

Wilf. alone. Will you so, Sir! Very well: It is not this huffing that will do with me: I believe I can spare Five hundred Pound as well as you, Sir— And so I'll e'en go to my Neighbour *Makebate*, who is an able Attorney, and consult with him about the matter: For I'm resolv'd I'll make *Crossbe* know, that let him be as cross as he will, he shan't chouse me of five Pieces of Stuff,— And see how lucklily it falls out, yonder's Mr. *Makebate* just coming this way: I'll call him hither— Ho, *Tom*,—

Tom. Here, Sir.

Wilf. See yonder goes Mr. *Makebate*, give him a Call, and tell him I must speak with him presently.

Tom. I will, Sir. [*Goes out and calls him, comes in again with him.*] Here's Mr. *Makebate*, Sir.

Wilf. Mr. *Makebate*, your humble Servant, Sir: I hope you'll excuse me, I bid my Man call you, seeing you
go-

going by, because I've a little Business with you.

Makeb. Your Servant, Sir ; I shall be very ready to serve you : Pray what is it ?

Wilf. Why you must know, Sir, I send my Goods up to *London* to a Factor, who sells 'em there for me, and I allow him so much *per Piece* for his Pains ; as is usual in our way : Now, Sir, my Factor being grown rich, grows proud also ; and, as I may say to you, a little knavish : For in 140 Pieces that I sent him up, he reckons five short, and will account with me but for 135. And when I find fault with his Account, as in good reason I may, he huffs me, and tells me his Servant will swear it, and I know not what all. Pray read that Letter of his— [*Gives him the Letter, which he reads and returns.*] Well, Sir, what d'y think of him ?

Makeb. Why I think he's Purse-proud, but I'll find out a way to humble him.

Wilf. Why do you tell me so ?

Makeb. Tell ye so ! Yes, and I'll do't too.

4 *A Norwich Weaver, his Factor,*

Wilf. Well Sir, do but that, and you'll win my heart; for I'd fain have him brought down a little: You see he writes that he'll spend Five hundred Pounds: But, Neighbour, tho' I say't, I can spare Five hundred Pounds to vindicate my self, as well as he.

Makeb. I don't doubt it, Sir.

Wilf. But what must we do?

Makeb. Pray what may your hundred and forty Pieces of Stuff be worth?

Wilf. Why, one with another they're worth 3 *l.* a Piece.

Makeb. Very well; why then I'd not have you stand shall I, shall I? but take out a Writ immediately, and arrest him in an Action of 840 *l.* 'Tis a great matter to begin first, for the Plaintiff is generally look'd upon to be the justest side.

Wilf. But what d'y tau'k of 840 *l.*? Why the whole 140 Pieces comes but to 420 *l.* but the difference is but five Pieces, for he has paid for 135. and those five Pieces comes but to 15 *l.* How then can I arrest him for 840 *l.*?

Makeb. O, very well, Sir: I'll make the matter plain to you: The neat
Value

Value of your 140 Pieces, at 3 *l.* per Piece, is 420 *l.* Now you must take no notice of what he has paid; but because he does'n't allow all, arrest him for the whole, which is 420 *l.*; and then 'tis our usual way to enter the Action double the Principal Sum, which makes it 840 *l.*

Wilf. But will that be any Advantage to me?

Makeb. O yes, very much: For first, the very Name of being arrested in such a Sum may perhaps crack his Credit at once; and that I think will sufficiently humble him. But, secondly, it will perhaps be difficult for him to find Bail for so great a Sum; and then he must go to Goal; which will make him comply to what Terms you please.

Wilf. But is this fair Practice?

Makeb. Pray, Mr. *Wilful*, tell me one thing; Wou'd you have your Adversary humbled?

Wilf. Yes truly, that's what I want.

Makeb. Why then never trouble your self about fair Practice; let that alone to me; and because he is so forward

6 *A Norwich Weaver, his Factor,*
for Law, do you but find Money, and
I'll give him Law enough.

Wilf. Very well, Neighbour ; you
understand me, I perceive ; and you
shan't want for Money, I assure you :
Here, pray take your Fee ; and when
you want any more, let me know it.

Makeb. I shall take care of your Bu-
siness, Sir, and call upon you as I see
occasion.

Wilf. Do so, do so, pray Sir. [Ex.

This matter being thus concerted be-
twixt the Lawyer and his Client, he
forthwith sends up to *London* to get
Mr. Crossbe arrested, that so the Suit
may go forward : For most Lawyers
are so like the Devil, that when once
they have a Commission, they seldom
fail of putting it in execution. For if
they can but bring Men on, let the De-
vil bring 'em off, as *Prince Rupert* said
once to his Soldiers. But let us see how
Mr. Crossbe likes this Proceeding, and
what Method he intends to take. The
Writ being taken out against him by a
London Attorney, pursuant to *Mr. Make-*
bate's Letter, a Sergeant was immediate-
ly

ly fee'd, who taking his Yeoman along with him, went to Mr. *Crossbe's* House, and ask'd to speak with him, who coming to 'em, desir'd to know their Business; whereupon the Serjeant told him he had a Writ against him: Against me, said he, for what? For 840*l.* said the Serjeant: How, said he, 840*l.*? At whose Suit, pray? At the Suit of Mr. *Wilbe Wilful*, a *Norwich* Weaver: Very well, says *Crossbe*, I'll go along with you, and put in Bail: Which accordingly he did, for he was a very wealthy Man, and had the repute of a fair Dealer, tho' of a surly cross Temper, and need not have wanted Bail for as much more. However he stomach'd this Affront so much, that he was resolv'd to be reveng'd of Mr. *Wilful*: To which end he sends for an Attorney, and makes known his Mind to him, in the following Dialogue.

Cros. I have had such a Trick put upon me, Mr. *Troubletown*, that I am very uneasy till I have Satisfaction.

Troubl. What Satisfaction the Law can give you, Sir, you need not question: But pray let me hear the Case, and

8 *A Norwich Weaver, his Factor,*
and than I shall know the better how to
judge of it.

Crof. Why, Sir, you must know that
I am a Factor to several *Norwich* Wea-
vers, and in particular to one *Wilful*, a
Weaver in *Norwich*, and have received
from him at several times since *Christmas*
last, when we clear'd all our Accounts,
135 Pieces of Stuffs; for which one
with another he charg'd me 3 *l.* apiece,
and I allow'd him so for 'em. But here
now lies the Difference, he charg'd me
with 140, whereas I received but 135;
and yet he insists upon making me pay
for 140; which I refus'd, because I
didn't receive so many.

Troubl. Marry, Sir, I think you've
have all the reason in the World on
your side, for why shou'd you pay for
more than you had?

Crof. You say very well, Sir: But
this isn't all: For upon my refusing to
pay for these five Pieces, what does he
do, but takes out a Writ against me
for 140 Pieces, tho' I have paid him
for 135 of 'em, and arrests me in an
Action of 840 *l.* And this is that which
vexes me.

Troubl.

Troubl. Vexes you, quoth-a? Marry it wou'd vex any one, I think, to be serv'd in such a manner as that was: And I'll tell you what I say to you, you may smoke him for it. I think you say his Names *Wilful*; but if he be ne'er so wilful, I'll give him enough on't, and make him know he was in the wrong Box, when he began to meddle with you.

Cros. But how must we proceed, Sir?

Troubl. O well enough, I'll warrant you: You have witness, you say, that you received but 135 Pieces?

Cros. Yes, yes, Sir: My Servant always receives 'em, and enters 'em down; and sets down both the day of the Month, and by what Carrier they were sent. And to every tittle in my Book of Entries, being all of his own Hand-writing, he is able to make Oath.

Troubl. That's sufficient, Sir, and will carry't in any Court in *England*. --- Why then it seems you owe him nothing.

Cros. Not a Farthing, Sir; and yet he arrests me in an Action of 840*l*.

Troubl. Upon my word you have a very good Action of Defamation against him.

Cros.

10 *A Norwich Weaver, his Factor,*

Cros. Have I so, Sir?

Troubl. Indeed have you, Mr. *Crossbe.* I'll tell you what we'll do; as to his Action of 840 l. we'll plead *Non debito*, that is, *we owe him nothing.*

Cros. But perhaps he'll say, we keep so many Pieces of his Goods in our hands; for he charges me with five Pieces.

Troubl. As to that, Sir, we'll plead, *Non est culpabilis.*

Cros. Pray, what's that, Sir?

Troubl. Why that is, *We'll utterly deny the Fact.* Or we may plead, *Non est factum*; which is a denying that to be our Deed, upon which we are impleaded. And I don't doubt but we shall bring him soon to his *Non sum informatus.*

Cros. I don't understand your Law-Phrases; but pray tell me what that last was.

Troubl. Why that's an Attorney's formal Answer in Court, when he has no more to say in defence of his Client.

Cros. Very well: Well, I'll leave the matter to you, Sir: But pray let nothing be wanting, for you shall want no Money.

Troubl.

Troubl. Why truly, Sir, that's the Life of the Cause, when all's done. But there's another thing, Sir; we won't be always upon the Defensive, but we'll be upon the Offensive too: You shall arrest him, as well as he arrested you.

Cros. Why now you say something, indeed; this is what I'd be at, that I might shew him Trick for his Trick. But how shall I arrest him?

Troubl. Never trouble your self for that, Sir: You have Cause of Action good enough: You owe him nothing.

Cros. Not a Farthing indeed.

Troubl. Very well; and yet he arrests you in an Action of 840 *l.*

Cros. He did so; and I have put in Bail to't.

Troubl. Then you've a good Action of Defamation against him. You are in Publick Business, and are a Factor for many Persons, which is the Business you follow: Now for him to arrest you in an Action of 840 *l.* as if you ow'd him so much, and refus'd to pay him, What can be a greater Defamation and Scandal to a Man in Business?

12 *A Norwich Weaver, his Factor,*

ness? You don't know but that upon the Noise of his Action others may take away their Business from you; and your Creditors may come upon you, and so you may be ruin'd by him.

Cros. As to an Action of Defamation, for charging me with so much Money, when I owe him nothing, I think that may very well be done. But as to my Creditors coming upon me, I have nothing to fear of that; for I don't owe 20 *l.* in *London*, tho' I have several hundreds owing me.

Troubl. That's nothing to the purpose: It aggravates the matter, and the Law will consider it; and therefore must of course be put into the Declaration, for it will bear a great weight with a Jury.

Cros. Well, well; I must leave those things to you: But pray, Sir, get him arrested, for I long to have that done. And if you want any Money, here's five Guineas to begin withal.

Troubl. Sir, I thank you, I'll take these in part, and make you a Bill at the end of the next Term. And you shall hear of his being arrested very suddenly

Cros.

Cros. I pray do, Sir ; and lay a
swinging Action upon him be sure.

Troubl. You need not question that,
Sir : It shall be 1600 *l.* at least ; for it
ought to be double yours.

Cros. Order that as you please, Sir,
and so farewell.

Troubl. Sir, I'm your humble Servant.
[*Exeunt.*]

The Lawyer and his Client being
parted, he (as the Country Attorney
had done with *Crossbe*) soon sends down
a Writ, and gets *Wilful* the *Norwich*
Weaver arrested in an Action of Defa-
mation of 1200 *l.* Damage : Which
put Mr. *Wilful* in a great Fret, upon
which he was fain to consult his Law-
yer again : And so the two Attorneys
make work for one another ; and each
Client being eager with desire of Re-
venge, set on the Lawyers to do their
utmost ; that is to say, to ruine them
both as fast as they cou'd ; in order to
which there was a double Suit carried
on ; that is to say, a Suit against *Cross-*
be for 140 Pieces of Stuff, and a Suit
against *Wilful* for Defamation ; and tho'
the

14 *A Norwich Weaver, his Factor,*
the one was 840 *l.* and the other 1200 *l.*
yet the Difference between 'em was but
15 *l.* in all. The Lawyers knowing
their Clients to be rich, sooth'd 'em up
in hopes of ruining each other, while
in the end they agreed to ruine 'em
both ; as will be seen in the following
Dialogue between 'em : For the Term
coming on, they both met together,
by consent, at a Tavern in *London* ;
where they both discoursed each other
pretty freely, in the following man-
ner.

Makeb. Mr. *Troubletown* , I'm your
humble Servant ; I've had a great mind
to see you : For tho' we are happily
engag'd against each other, yet you and
I have no reason to fall out.

Troubl. Sir, your humble Servant :
I've as great a mind to drink a Glass of
Wine with you ; for the Quarrel is be-
tween our Clients, and not us : Our
Business is to get Money, and I per-
ceive they have a mind to spend some.

Makeb. I find, Sir, you have a right
Notion of of 'em, as well as I : My
Client believes yours to be Purse-proud,
and I believe 'em both to be so : And
since

since they are happily fallen into our hands, if we don't make a penny of 'em, we shall be wanting to our selves.

Troubl. I am perfectly in your Mind, Sir ; and for ought I perceive they are willing enough to let us, provided we can but give 'em any tolerable Encouragement they shall overcome.

Makeb. And for my part I han't been backward in that, I was with my Client the Tuesday before I came from *Norwich*, and told him what a hopeful prospect we had of Success, and he both gave me Wine and Money ; for I told him indeed the carrying on of two several Suits wou'd be a great Charge.

Troubl. You are beholding to me for that, Sir : For indeed it wou'd have been sufficient for me to have pleaded *Non debit* to your Action of 840*l.* and so to have join'd issue, and made an end of the Business.

Makeb. For a poor Client indeed that had been the readiest way ; but by no means in this Case, where both have Money enough, and want to be rid on't.

Troubl. You say right, Sir, and therefore I was willing to please my Client ;
and

16 *A Norwich Weaver, his Factor,*
and therefore I contrived to have him
arrested upon an Action of Defama-
tion: And you can't imagine how
thankful my Client was for that In-
vention: It tickled the very Cockles of
his heart.

Makeb. Well, Sir, I own my Obli-
gation to you, and am willing to pay
my Acknowledgment in a Glass of
Wine.

Troubl. Sir, I thank you: And while
you and I understand one another, we
may afford to drink a Glass of Wine
sometimes.

Makeb. And make our Clients pay
for't.

Troubl. Right: It will be very neces-
sary, because of concerting Matters to-
gether: that we may the better know
how to proceed.

Makeb. That's very well minded;
and now you talk of that, I think this
will be one very proper way for us both
to take, Let all things be got ready for
a Tryal, and when the Day is fix'd,
and Council fee'd on our side, do you
bring a *Habeas Corpus* to remove it.

Troubl.

Troubl. That'll be an excellent way to get Money, but then it must be remov'd into another Court.

Makeb. No, it shan't, for I'll get a *Certiorari* to bring it back again. But by that means it will be drove off for a Term or two longer.

Troubl. It will do extraordinary well indeed ; for so there will be Trick for Trick, and that will please both our Clients.

Makeb. True ; and then when your Case comes on, I'll do the same Trick for you ; for as long as their Money holds out, we'll find out Ways and Means for 'em to spend it.

Troubl. 'Tis fit it shou'd be so ;

*For when two Fools themselves in Law embroil,
'Tis just the Lawyers shou'd divide the Spoil.*

The two Lawyers having agreed together to ease their Clients of their Money, and give 'em Law for it, parted very good Friends, and resolved to continue so, notwithstanding the Quarrel between their Clients. — To tell all the several Tricks they us'd to delay and put off Trials, and then bring 'em on

on again, and remove their Suits from one Court to another, wou'd be to swell this Dialogue into a Volume : Let it suffice therefore to tell the Reader, that the Suit was carried on to that length, that they had effectually drain'd their Clients Purses, so that now they cou'd no longer boast of those hundred Pounds they had to spare before ; for now they wanted 'em themselves to buy bread for their own Families. Mr. *Crossbe* indeed held out the longest, as he had the best Cause, and still continu'd his Factorage for others, who believ'd him to be in the right, and therefore wou'd not withdraw their Effects from him with whom they always found very fair dealing, and very good returns. And yet even he first spent all his supernumerary Pounds ; and after that, found that the Lawyer drew his Money out faster than he cou'd get it in ; and knowing that if he fail'd in his Payments to those that had intrusted him to sell their Goods, he shou'd soon be ruin'd, kept touch with the Weavers, paid 'em punctually, but was now drove to that strait, that he was forc'd
to

to run upon tick with his Attorney for Law, which at last made the Wheels run heavily ; and the Lawyer finding it was like to be worse and worse, it made him begin to be almost as weary as his Client.

Mr. *Wilful*, (who was such a one as the Proverb tells us never wants Woe) could not hold out so well as *Crossbe*, because his Money being all spent in Law, he cou'd not carry on his Trade, which requir'd a considerable Stock ; and the Lawyer devoured that Money which should have paid the Wool-Merchant and the Worsted-Spinner, and the Workmen Weavers, who from the long continuance of the Law-Suit, prognosticating he cou'd not long hold out, were unwilling to be involv'd in the same ruine with him ; and therefore, like the Rats and Mice, forsook the falling House, and so left him ; and the report of his being become insolvent, blew him up all at once. And yet finding his Adversary to hold out still, he was loth to leave him Master of the Field ; but buoying up himself with the false hopes of obtaining some mighty Ad-

20 *A Norwich Weaver, his Factor,*

Advantage over his Adversary, borrow'd what he cou'd for the Lawyer, and made him trust for the rest. But when *Makebate* found he was fain to leave off his Trade, he soon rightly judg'd that the Water which made the Mill to go, wou'd quickly be dry'd up; and thereupon was now for making Peace between 'em; and to that end writ a Letter to his Fellow Cheat, (for they were no better) that it was highly necessary for 'em to consult together before the Term begun; telling him he wou'd be in Town such a day, and wou'd meet him the next day at the *Rose Tavern* in *Curfitors-Alley* near *Chancery-Lane*, at 3 in the Afternoon. And there cou'd not have been a happier appointment for 'em both: For as Luck would have it, *Wilful* being then in Town also, had appointed, with some Friends of his that interpos'd between him and *Crossbe*, at the same place, to meet together, but only an Hour after, which gave the two Lawyers (after all their Roguery) the Opportunity of coming off like honest Men. For the Lawyers meeting first, according to appointment,

ment, had the following Dialogue pass'd between 'em.

Troubl. Mr. Makebate, your humble Servant, Sir ; your're very welcome to Town.

Makeb. I kindly thank you, Sir. Why Sir, I had a great mind to see you before the Term begins, that so we might, if possible, make an end of it ; for I find we have run it out as long as the matter will bear. And since our Client's Money is gone, I think 'tis high time the Law-suit was ended.

Troubl. I am altogether of your mind, Sir ; for to tell you the Truth, tho' I was willing to prosecute the Suit at my Client's Charge, while I got something by it, yet I an't willing to carry't on at my own Charge, and so lose what I've got already ; for now Money comes very hard, and he has gone some Pounds upon tick already.

Makeb. But why do you let him do so ?

Troubl. Why I'll tell you, Sir ; you can't but be sensible that I have got some hundreds of Pounds by him, as well as you have by yours ; and I am

22 *A Norwich Weaver, his Factor,*
still troubled with such a Principle of
Gratitude, as wou'dn't let me deny him.

Makeb. I'll assure you, Sir, tho' I
ask'd you the Question, I have been
guilty of the same Fault my self: And
to prevent further damage, (for I per-
ceive their Stocks are both grown very
low) I thought it convenient we met
together before the Term begins, to
prevent any further Proceedings.

Troubl. I think 'tis a good motion;
for since nothing's to be got by 'em, I
don't know why we shou'd have any
thing more to do with 'em. But which
way can we turn 'em off?

Makeb. Why, as we first set 'em to-
gether by the Ears, by telling what
great things we'd do for 'em; so now
let's persuade 'em to agree, by telling
'em there's nothing more can be done
for 'em; and so let each of us plead,
Non sum informatus.

Enter Makebate's Man.

M. Man. Sir, as I was sitting below,
there came Mr. *Wilful* to me, and three
or four Gentlemen with him, and ask'd
me whether you were here, or no?
And

And I told him, Yes, you were above Stairs. And he told me he must speak with you by and by; and he is gone into the next room to yours, with his Friends.

Makeb. Well, get you down, and take no notice that I know any thing of his being here.

Man. No, Sir, no more I won't. [*Ex.*]

Makeb. What should the meaning of this be?

Troubl. I know not what it means; but I think it falls out very well: For now we will press the matter home for an Agreement. [*Whispers.*] And if they hear us eager at it, it will be so much the better. [*Raising his Voice.*] Well, Mr. *Makebate*, What say you?

Crossbe in the next Room. Hark, Mr. *Wilful*; here's our two Lawyers got together in the next Room; pray let's be silent, and hear what they say.

Wilf. They drink Wine at our Charge; but I'll be silent, and hear what they say.

Troubl. Will you heartily join with me, to make up this Difference between our Clients.

Makeb. Alas, Mr. *Troubletown*, I am so willing to it, that I shou'd think it the best Days Work that ever I did in my life. It grieves me to see 'em spend so much Money every Term; when after all, the Advantage will never countervail the Charge.

Troubl. What you say is very true, Mr. *Makebate*: And since the Term is now just at hand, let us get an end made before the Term begins: For if the Suit goes further on, the Charge will be great; and I must appear against you; for I am bound in Conscience not to see my Client non-suited.

Makeb. The Case is the same with me, Sir: But pray what do you propose towards an Accommodation?

Troubl. That which I propose is this: That the two opposite Parties, Mr. *Crossbe* and Mr. *VVilful*, meet together, and bind themselves in a Bond of five hundred Pounds a-piece, to stand to the Award of two Men, who shall be thereby empower'd to make a final Conclusion of the matter, and so general Releases to be drawn on both sides.

Makeb

Makeb. Sir, I agree with you heartily ; 'tis what's just and reasonable. And to shew my hearty agreement to it, I here promise to spend a Guinea upon the Company at the making of it up.

Troubl. Sir, I'm glad to find you so hearty in the matter ; and therefore not to be behind-hand with you in Generosity, I promise to spend another.

Wilful in the next Room. Heaven bless 'em both, if ever there were a couple of honest Lawyers, these are they.

Cros. If I hadn't heard their Discourse with my own Ears, I cou'dn't a-thought they'd have been so true to us.

Wilf. Nor I neither, truly. They're certainly Men of Conscience and Honesty.

Cros. Well, tho' it has cost me a great deal of Money, I'm the better pleas'd, because an honest Lawyer had it.

Wilf. So am I too, I declare it. But let's hearken a little more.

Makeb. Come, Mr. *Troubletown*, here's our Client's good Healths.

Troubl. With all my heart, and to their happy Agreement.

B 3

Makeb.

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Makeb. I heartily wish it, I protest.
— Well, I think that which is to be done next, is for me to write to Mr. *Wilful* to come up to Town with all speed, in order to make a final end.

Wilful in the next Room. Well, Mr. *Crossbe*, I think now we had best go and shew our selves to 'em, and that'll prevent sending down for me.

Cros. I, by all means, Sir, and so 'twill be dispatch'd the sooner.

Troubl. That must be done as soon as possible; for my Client, you know, is upon the spot, and I can speak with him presently.

Wilful in the next Room, Going into theirs. And so you may with me too, Gentlemen ÷ Mr. *Makebate*, how d'y' do? And you, Sir, too; tho' you be my Opposite, I believe you're an honest Man.

Troubl. I desire to be so, Sir. But in the Name of Goodness, how came you two here together?

Makeb. I, that's the Mystery, for I was just going to write to you, to desire you to come to Town.

Wilf.

Wilf. I know you was, and that made me come in to save you the labour.

Makeb. You know I was! Pray, Sir, how cou'd you know I was going to write to you?

Wilf. Because you told me so.

Cros. To be plain with you, Gentlemen, we were brought together by these worthy Friends, who wish us both well, in order to an accommodation; who were pleas'd to appoint this Tavern to be the place of meeting: And coming hither, we were had up to the next Room, where hearing you mention Mr. *Makebate*, and knowing your Voice, we had the Curiosity to hearken to your Discourse, which we found to be honefter than we expected, and were so well satisfied in it, that we made bold to come into your Room, for which we beg your Pardon.

Makeb. and Troubl. Gentlemen, we are very much oblig'd to you, and glad of this unexpected and surprizing Meeting.

Wilf. Nay, I was resolv'd to surprize you.

28 *A Norwich Weaver, his Factor,*

Makeb. Truly, Sir, my Design in meeting with Mr. *Troubletown*, was to propose an Agreement, in order to save Charges, the Term being now near at hand.

Cros. Sir, we over-heard your whole Discourse, for which we are obliged to you, and do accept of your Proposal, to enter into Bond, to leave it to two Persons; and if Mr. *Wilful* will be willing, we'll e'en leave it to you two to make an end of it.

Wilf. With all my heart, Sir.

The Bonds being immediately drawn, the two Arbitrators withdrew, to consult about it; and first of all blest their happy Stars, that the first part of their Discourse wasn't over-heard as well as the last. And then, because Mr. *Makebate* had understood from Mr. *Wilful*, that his Servant on his Death-bed had own'd he wrong'd his Master of those five Pieces which he charg'd Mr. *Crossbe* with, he was to allow Mr. *Crossbe* five Pound. And so general Releases were to be given on both sides, and all were to be good Friends.

This

This was readily accepted by the two Adversaries; for *Wilful* now was willing to submit, and found too late he had been in an Error: And *Crofshe* was well pleas'd that he came off a Conqueror, and had five Pound allow'd him to be quiet, which (now he'd spent above five hundred) he was very willing to accept. And thus the tedious Suit was ended unto the mutual Satisfaction of both Parties.

*Let him who n^o such instance ever saw,
See here the Fate of them that go to Law:
Those that to Law for ev'ry Trifle run,
Take the directest way to be undone:
And after many hundred Pounds are lost,
They'll get five Pound in lieu of all their Cost:
While the deceitful Lawyer laughs to see
Litigious Men his Benefactors be.
They brawl before Men, but soon change their Stile
When they're alone, and at their Clients smile.
Those who have gotten a Contentious Itch,
Are th' only Men that make the Lawyers rich.
Such run the Hazard; Lawyers set the Main;
Who ever loses, they'll be sure to gain.*

DIALOGUE II.

BETWEEN

Spruceman, *a Linnen-Draper's Apprentice,*
Mrs. Tricker, a pick'd-up Filt, and
Mrs. Sharper, her Landlady.

THE grand Enemy of Mankind at first made use of a Woman to ruine our great Grandfather *Adam*, and bring him into that miserable Condition, which he has since bequeath'd to all his Posterity : And the same Method that he used then, he has pursu'd ever since ; still making use of Women for the Destruction of Mankind : Women have fair Faces, and fair Tongues, tho' they have foul Tails ; and with the first they induce to the last. To discover some of those many Intrigues they carry on to insnare Men, and bring them into their Clutches, and then use (or rather bubble) them as they

they please, is the Design of this Dialogue; that so the Simple may beware, and avoid these Instruments of their Destruction, as they wou'd do the Plague; seeing, as *Solomon* tells us in the *Proverbs*, *A whorish Woman is a deep Ditch, and he that is abhorred of the Lord, shall fall therein.*

Enter Mrs. Tricker overtaking Spruce.

Tric. Pray, Sir, is this the way to *Temple-Bar*; for I'm a Stranger in the Town, and unacquainted with the Streets.

Spruce. Yes, Madam, I am going that way, and if you'll go with me, I'll shew it you.

Tric. Sir, I'll gladly accept your kind Offer, and shall esteem my self very much obliged to you: For there is so much Rudeness in *London*, I am glad I have met with a Civil Gentleman.

Spruce. Your Servant, Madam: Pray do you lodge this way?

Tric. Yes, Sir, I lodge at *Clare-Market*, and when I am at *Temple-Bar*, I know the way home very well.

Spruce.

Spruce. Nay, Madam, being a Stranger, I'll see you at your Lodging, and then you'll be safe.

Tric. Sir, you'll oblige me too much: I know not how to make you a suitable return for your Civility.

Spruce. Yes, Madam, if you please you can easily do that, and oblige me for ever.

Tric. Let me but know wherein, Sir, and you shall find I hate to be ungrateful.

Spruce. It is not so proper, Madam, to discourse that in the Street; but if you please to accept of a Glass of Wine, I'll tell you wherein you may infinitely oblige me.

Tric. Your Servant, Sir: I think it is a little rude to go into a Tavern with a Stranger; but the Desire I have to oblige you, makes me willing to accept your Offer, and to hope that you'll excuse my forwardness.

Spruce. O dear Madam! There wants no Excuse for so obliging a Condescension: It is for me only to make Apologies, for you don't need 'em: — Come, Madam, we're now e'en
at

his Miss, and her Landlady. 33

at Temple-Bar, and I think we'd best go to the Devil, for there's the best Wine.

Tric. I am a Stranger, Sir, and so am unacquainted ; but go whether you please, I'll follow you.

Spruce. You're too obliging, Madam.--
[*They both enter the Devil-Tavern.*] Here, Drawer, shew a Room up Stairs.

Tric. O dear, Sir, you need not have given your self this trouble: Below Stairs will do well enough.

Spruce. I beg your pardon, Madam; 't isn't so proper there: [*Enter Drawer, shewing 'em up Stairs into a Room.* Drawer, bring up a Bottle of your best Canary.

Draw. I will, Sir, presently.

Tric. Dear Sir, what d'ye intend to do?

Spruce. Only to drink a Bottle of Wine with you, Madam. And—

Tric. And what, Sir?

Spruce. And talk a little.

Tric. Of what, Sir? — [*Enter Draw.*

Draw. Sir, here's a Bottle of racy Canary.

Spruce. Is it good upon your Word now?

Draw.

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Draw. 'Tis a Flower, I'll assure you, Sir.

Spruce. Very well. Pray bring up a Plate of pickled Oysters presently.

Draw. You shall have 'em, Sir.

Tric. Why, what d'y mean, Sir?

Spruce. Mean, Madam! Why I mean to have some Oysters, because they're good to relish a Glass of Wine, — Come, your good Health, Madam.

Tric. I thank you, Sir: But indeed, Sir, you shou'dn't a gi'n your self all this Trouble. Besides, I can't stay.

Spruce. Stay, Madam! Why 't isn't eight a-clock yet: We may very well stay these two Hours.

Tric. How, Sir! Two Hours! Why what can we do all the while?

Spruce. First drink our VVine, and next
our Oysters eat;

And Love's Delight shall be our second Treat.

Tric. I don't understand you, indeed, Sir.

Spruce. You'll understand me better by and by. Come, here's my Service to you, Madam: Pray how d'ye like the Wine?

Tric.

his Miss, and her Landlady. 35

Tric. Very well, Sir, I thank you, and so I do the Oysters too. — But, Sir, now it grows late.

Spruce. I hope it en't to late to be grateful.

Tric. No, Sir ; we shou'd always be grateful.

Spruce. Then, Madam, to be plain with you, I hope you'll be so towards me.

Tric. Please but to let me know wherein I can be so ; and if I ben't, then charge me with Ingratitude.

Spruce. Madam, you've said enough : I've treated you, and Gratitude requires you now to do the same by me.

Tric. Another time, Sir, I shall do it readily ; but now I think we've had enough in reason ; or if you wou'd have more, I'll treat you with another Bottle.

Spruce. No, Madam, I want neither Wine nor Oysters : 'Tis Love that I wou'd now be treated with.

Tric. That's but an airy Diet, Sir : But if that satisfies you, know I love you.

Spruce.

Spruce. The Love that I intend, is not so airy, because it centers in Enjoyment: For in short, Madam, that which I mean by finding of you grateful, is letting me enjoy the last and greatest Favour from you. And if you love me, you will do it.

Tric. O but that isn't honest, Sir.

Spruce. Not honest, Madam! Why do you reckon 'tis dishonest to be grateful?

Tric. No, Sir; I know one may be grateful, and yet not be dishonest. Besides, Sir, by granting what you ask, I may be got with Child, and what shall I do then?

Spruce. O Madam, let not that trouble you, be you but grateful now; and I will, if such a thing shou'd happen, take care both of your self and of the Child. What say you, Madam?

Tric. —Excuse me, Sir: I know not what to say: For what you ask, I must not grant; and yet I can't deny you.

Spruce. That was obliging; well, you
shan't be prest:
You've said enough, and now I'll do the rest.

Tric.

Tric. Fie! you are rude—

Spruce. *Madam, indeed not I :*

I only Take that which you can't Deny.

Thus did this tricking Jilt, by all her faint Denials, stir up young *Spruceman* with more eagerness to take what she was full as willing to bestow, as he to take it; and after they had satiated themselves in their brutal Enjoyments, she counterfeiting her self a Maid all the time, young *Spruceman* was extremely pleased with her, and wou'd needs see her at her Lodging; which after some Refusal, she permitted; and not only so, but had him up into her Chamber, where sending of her Landlady for Wine, they in the mean time quench'd their amorous Fires; and having drank their Wine, parted with Promises of future Meetings.

The Spark thus gone, not without leaving a Gratuity behind him *Tricker* the Jilt acquaints her Landlady with what a Spark she had pick'd up; which I shall represent unto the Reader, as a Warning to others, in the following Dialogue.

Enter

*Enter Mrs Tricker, and Sharper
her Landlady.*

Trick. Well, I have met with special Luck to night : The Spark you saw, has Love and Money too ; and I have had to night of both sorts from him : He was full charg'd with Love ; and gave me so much Satisfaction and Delight, I han't been better pleas'd this many a day.

Sharp. What, was he an old Gamester, d'ye think ?

Tric. I believe not : He didn't go about it, as one that had been us'd to it ; but when he was once enter'd, perform'd with all the Fire and Vigour of a lusty Bridegroom.

Sharp. That's well enough : Did you make use of such an Opportunity ?

Tric. Yes, yes, you may be sure of that : I always mind my Business, and in the heighth of all his Joys, I div'd into his Pocket.

Sharp. What did you pick it then ?

Trick. Yes, that I did, but not of any Money ; that I cou'd better get
ano-

another way : My Business was to fish for Secrets there.

Sharp. You were i'th' right on't ; for since he'd got within your Secrets, it was but just you should dive into his. But pray what did you get ?

Tric. A Letter-case with several Letters in it ; by which I question not but I shall soon discover enough to let me know how best to manage him.

Sharp. That's next of all to be consider'd on. Pray see what Letters he has.

[*Tricker opens the Letter-case, and reads.*]

Tric. *These for Francis Spruceman at Mr. — at the Sign of the — in Cornhill —* So : Then I know where to find him, if he shou'dn't come again.

Sharp. But pray read the Letter, we may guess at his Circumstances by that, and give the beter guess what we may make of him.

Tric. I will.

[*Reads.*

Son

Son Francis,

YOU write me word that you want Money for your Pocket, and to buy some Commodities which you trade in for your self: As for your Pocket, I suppose a little will serve; for I wou'd have you a good husband; and then I am sure you need not spend much: And as for trading for your self, I am not free to it, unless it be with your Master's allowance; for I wou'd have you do nothing clandestinely, how much soever it may be for your Advantage; but that you may come out of your time, and set up with a clear Reputation. And if your Master allows it, and the thing be fair, you shall want no Money upon that account. But pray avoid all evil Courses, (especially Wine and Women) as you tender your own Reputation, and expect the Blessing of

Your loving and

Huntingdon,
June 4 1705.

affectionate Father,

Thomas Spruceman.

Sharp.

Sharp. This is a good honest Letter from the Fools Father, and I find there's Money to be made of him. The young Rogue writes to his Father it seems that he deals in Commodities himself; but his Father little thinks what sort of Commodities they be: However 'tis a fair Pretence for him to get Money of his Father.

Tric. Right: And if he does but get it, I'll find out ways to make him spend it. For I don't know but I may be got with Child by him, and then he'll have that to provide for.

Sharp. Whether you are or no, you may pretend you are; and that will do as well.

Tric. But what shall I do with this Letter-case? Here are several Letters in it that relate to Business, that will signifie nothing to me.

Sharp. First take that out that comes from his Father, and keep it: For by that you may keep him in awe, and get Money by him. And then give the rest to one of our Bullies, and let him go to him as if he had found it, and so get a Piece of Money of him for bring-

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bringing it to him. For in such Cases, wherein they know themselves tardy, they'll be always very civil.

Tric. I like the first Part of your Advice, but not the second : For I believe 'twill be better to keep the Letter-case till he comes to fetch it ; and if he shou'd not come, then I'll carry it myself : And let me alone to make my Market of it.

Sharp. Well, take your own way ; I believe that may do as well.

Tric. Nay, I'm sure 'twill do better as I'll manage it ; and I'll put his Father's Letter amongst the rest, that he may miss nothing.

Sharp. Then you must take a Copy of it.

Tric. That I intend ; and so will have it in my Power to ruine him, if he don't answer my Demands, when he thinks nothing of the matter.

Sharp. That's very well contriv'd. Now let's to Bed.

*For we this Night have such a Platform laid,
By which good store of Money will be made :
For if within our Clutches once we take 'em,
They shall do what we list, or else we'll make 'em.*

It

It is now time to return to young *Spruceman*, who the next Morning searching for his Letter-case, in which there was a Note of Goods to be sent into the Country, he cou'd by no means find it; which put him into no little Consternation; not knowing what to imagine was become of it. At last recollecting what pass'd in his last Night's Debauch, he was satisfy'd it must be left either at the Tavern, or at his Miss's Lodging: So away goes he to the first place, where not finding it, he repairs to his Miss's Lodgings; who seem'd overjoy'd to see him, telling him (without asking) she was mighty sorry he shou'd leave his Letter-case in her Chamber, but she had preserv'd it carefully for him; which he very joyfully received, and looking'em over, found every thing there that he wanted, which made him much the easier. Mrs. *Tricker* then ask'd him when she shou'd see him again; and told him how great a Kindness she had for him; for seeing he had got her Maidenhead, no Man but he shou'd ever have to do with her. With which the Coxcomb

was

was so charm'd, he knew not how to leave her, but must needs repeat again the last Night's Follies; and then giving her more Money, he took his leave, and expected to hear no more of his Lady: But she wasn't so easily turn'd off, as she was brought on; and he shall soon find to his Cost, that he that dances will be made to pay the Piper.— Mrs. *Tricker* having heard nothing more of her Spark in two Month's time, began to give him over for lost; and so thought it was now high time to make a Penny of him. And having consulted the Methods that were to be taken with Mrs. *Sharper*, she tricks up her self in her best Accoutrements, and away goes she to *Cornhil*, and repairs to the Shop where Mr. *Spruceman* was Apprentice, under the specious Errand of buying a piece of Holland; and having found him there, she didn't doubt of making her Market. The young Man was extreamly surpriz'd at the sight of her that brought his Sin to remembrance; especially for fear she should have blab'd out something to his Master that might have been his Ruine,

Ruine, and therefore attended her with all the Diligence imaginable, that she might have no Opportunity to say any thing to any body but himself. And his Master being call'd away, he had the Opportunity to ask her how she did, and to desire her to go to the Ship and Castle Tavern, promising to come to her presently; which she immediately did, taking the Holland along with her, which she made him pay for. Having done what Business he had in the Shop, he takes with him some Bills to receive Monies, which was his Errand out; and so goes to the Tavern; where between his Mistress and him there pass'd the following Dialogue.

Spruce. Madam, your humble Servant: Pray how came you to find me out?

Tric. Why I came into the City to buy some Holland, and a lucky Chance directed me to the House where you liv'd; and so I came to see you, or else I believe you'd ne'er ha' come after me.

C

Spruce.

Spruce. Don't say so, Madam, pray ; for it has been a busie time with us, so that I had no Opportunity to come.

Trick. You Sparks are never without an Excuse ; tho' I confess you have hit on none of the best, in making the Long-vacation a time of much Business.

Tric. Nay, Madam, you are mistaken there ; for tho' the Long-vacation be a kind of a Cessation from Business with my Master, it is not so with his Men ; for then we look over our Shops for the whole Year, and set all things to-rights ; besides, the not having much to do, keeps us at home, because we have no Business to call us abroad.

Tric. Why truly, Sir, you have made it out better than I expected : But, Sir, I have a more important matter, (I am sure a matter that concerns me much more) to tell you of ; and that is, that I am with Child by you, and almost three Months gone.

Spruce. With Child by me, Madam ! It is impossible you should be with Child by me, and be almost three Months gone. It is not so long since I knew you first.

Tric.

Trick. You forget your self extremely Sir, it was upon St. *James's* Day, I know by a very good Token, and now it is *Michaelmas*; which is at least ten Weeks, and pray what does that want of three Months. But I perceive you young Sparks are better at getting of Children, than at keeping Womens Reckonings. And for saying it is impossible I should be with Child by you, I wonder at you, when you know how often you have deserv'd for it: For tho' you were with me but twice indeed, yet you made use of your Time. Besides, if you shou'd deny it, I can prove it by my Landlady, whom you sent for some Wine at my Lodgings, and what you did with me in the mean time, you know well enough; but it seems she made more haste than we did, and found us engag'd; but being modest and civil, wou'dn't spoil our Sport, but staid till we had done. This, I think will be sufficient Proof on my side. But I need not stand upon Proof, for my own Oath will be enough; and therefore pray, Sir, don't go about to put any Tricks upon me,

C 2

but

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but take care to provide for the Child
you have got.

Spru. You seem a little angry, Ma-
dam, I wou'dn't have you be in such a
Heat.

Trick. I think I have enough to put
me in a heat, to be over-come by your
Promises of Love and Kindness, to let
you do your Will with me, and then
never come at me for ten Weeks toge-
ther, and having got me with Child,
and spoil'd my Fortunes, then tell me it
is impossible. But I can make it ap-
pear even to your Master or Mistress
either, that it is not impossible, for I
won't be fool'd.

Spruce. Pray Mistress, don't talk so
loud, you don't know who may be in
the next Room and over-hear us: My
Reputation is tender, and it may be ru-
in'd by such an Accident.

Trick. I think I have reason to speak
Sir; You take no care at all of my
Reputation; and therefore I have no
great reason to take care of yours.

Spruce. You are too hasty, Madam:
I was a little surpriz'd at first, and didn't
think of any such thing.

Trick.

Trick. I wonder you can say that, Sir, for I put it to you, before I yielded to your desires: And you told me, that if it were so, you would provide both for me and the Child: So that I dealt very honestly, and above-board with you; and don't deserve to be treated thus by you.

Spruce. Pray Mistress govern your Passion, and don't put your Temper into a Ferment, but be easie. I now remember indeed what you said, and what I promis'd; and since it is so, I'll be as good as my Word.

Trick. Now you say something Sir, and I shall begin to think you an honest Gentleman.

Spruce. I wou'd have said as much before, but you wouldn't give me leave. For I was indeed a little surpriz'd that you shou'd be got with Child by me.

Trick. I don't know why it shou'd; for I am sure you acted with all the Vigour that a Man cou'd do.

Spruce. Then I hope you were the better pleas'd Madam? And I believe you were as brisk and vigorous as I was.

Trick. I believe as much, Sir; for I acted according as I lov'd you; which now troubles me the more, to find my Love is slighted.

Spruce. You are mistaken, Madam, I don't slight your Love.

Trick. If you don't slight my Love, then I hope you'll take the best care you can of me, in this Condition, and marry me with the first Opportunity, that our Child mayn't be counted a Bastard.

Spruce. How, Madam! Marry you! Was there any such Word mention'd? Nay, or so much as Thought? I'm sure there never was by me; and I am sure you never spoke one Word on't, I was never so mad yet.

Trick. But I am sure Honestly requires it shou'd be so.

Spruce. Look ye Madam, Honestly wasn't concern'd in this Case; 'Twas only a Trick of Youth: I had a mind to know how 'twas, and so I perceive had you: And we have both had our Fancy; and if there be a Child in the Case it must be taken care of. And this is all that I know of the matter, and
all

all that I pretend: For as for Honesty, that wou'd have forbid any such Practices at all: For Honesty requires that Folks be married first, and not afterwards.

Trick. Well, Sir, what Provision will you make for the Child?

Spruce. You are too hasty Madam; 'tis but ten Weeks since 'twas got, and there are thirty Weeks to come, before it will be born, at least according to *Aristotle's* Reckoning. However, here's something in the mean time. And I'll come and see you very suddenly.

Trick. Well, Sir, upon that Condition, I'll take what you have given me. You may come and take another Game at *Tick tack* when you please, for now, you know, there's no more danger.

Spruce. No, not unless you shou'd have Twins upon it.

Trick. There's no fear of that, Sir,— I hope you'll pardon what I have said, Sir: Your questioning the Truth of what I said, put me into a little heat; but now all's over, and I shou'd be glad to oblige you in any thing I can.

Spruce. Madam, one Kiss, because I am in haste, and must be gone.

Trick. That you shall have, and any thing besides that I can give you.

Spruce. We'll take a more convenient time for that, when we meet next.

[*Exeunt.*]

Being thus got rid of his Mistress, he return'd home, and pretending not to be well, he went up to his Chamber, where he vented his Uneasiness in such Words as these.

Spruceman alone. What hard Luck had I, that did but once transgress, and must be always plagu'd for it! How can I ever answer't to my Father, if he shou'd come to know I have debauch'd my self with a lewd Woman, and got a Bastard by her! A Bastard, besides the Shame and the Disgrace, will be a constant Charge upon me, which I can't bear at present, and yet there's no avoiding it. Well, I must give the Whore a piece of Money, and so get rid of her for good: But I don't know whether all that will do: The damn'd Jade had the Impudence to mention marrying her! No, Mrs. *Filt*, you are mistaken there:

there: I'd court the Plague first, and be married to my Grave, ere I'd have any more to do with her, whate'er she talks of being got with Child; this is some common Jade that walks the Streets and knew the way to *Temple-Bar* as well as I did: But the insinuating Devil ask'd me the way only to draw me in, and then to make a Prize on me, as I perceive she now designs. The Jade wou'd fain have drawn me in again to her adulterous Embraces, and offer'd it at such a fulsome Rate, as has quite turn'd my Stomach. I hate the very sight of her, and yet must carry't fair to her, lest she shou'd let my Master and Mistress know of it; for she has had the Impudence to tell me, she'd make the thing appear both to my Master and my Mistress. Well, it almost distracts me; and I methinks look just like one at th' place of Execution, giving Advice to all young Men, by my Example to avoid leud Women; and I believe cou'd do it full as heartily as they. I know not what will be the Issue of it, but I have nothing but a Prospect of Destruction now before me.

There is no stopping of her Tongue, without applying Golden Balsam to her Hand; and for ought I know, without applying a more precious Balsam somewhere else too: But that I utterly resolve against, I've parted with too much of that already; I'll play no more with her at *Tick-tack* as she calls it — And where to come by Money to supply her with, except I wrong my Master on't, I know not: And then to wrong my Master, will be to play the part of treacherous *Judas*, and bring Dishonour both to God, my Parents, and my self: And yet to such a curs'd necessity as this, has my committing Lewdness with this accursed Woman brought me. — Well, I've a Friend, (but what will he say to me, when he knows it?) to whom I must discover this Intrigue, and get him to assist me, both with his Purse and Person.

*And when I am but once rid of this Whore,
I'll keep my self at home, and sin no more.*

Spruceman, (Pursuant to his Resolution)
goes to a near Relation here in Town,
and

and tells him the whole matter, as is before related; and after the Profession of a hearty Penitence for his past Folly, desires his Counsel and Assistance: He (glad to hear him truly penitent for such an Error as most young Men commit, but few repent of) promises both; in order whereunto he charges him, as he will answer't at his utmost Peril, that he never wrongs his Master; and if he has done so, to let him know it, that he might give him Money to repay it: Next he advises him to see the Jilt he had been drawn aside by, and have her to the Tavern, privately leaving word at the Bar for such a Number, and then let him alone to come and act the rest; telling him he wou'd come and personate his Master, and cause her to refund the Piece of *Holland* that she took; and by that means she'd tell her Tale to him, as if he was his Master; and his Master need not know it. Things thus concerted, he and his Kinsman part, having appointed first the Day and Hour of meeting.

Return we now again to Mrs. *Tricker*, who having got a piece of *Holland*, and some Money

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Money too from *Spruceman*, came home
well satisfy'd, and thus recounts her
Travels to her Landlady.

Trick. Well, Landlady, I have met
with *Spruceman* to day.

Sharper. And pray what said he to
you?

Trick. As soon as he saw me, his Coun-
tenance chang'd, and he look'd as if he
cou'dn't help it. And his Master being
by, he took no notice of me, but seem'd
to be mighty uneasie. At last, his Ma-
ster was call'd out, and then he ask'd me
how I did, and told me he was glad to
see me, and bid me, if I lik'd that piece
of *Holland*, take it with me, and go over
to the *Ship* and *Castle-Tavern*, and he'd
come to me, which I did, and he came
accordingly.

Sharp. And what Discourse had you
with him there?

Trick. Why when he came thither,
I tax'd him with Unkindness in not
coming to see me; which he excus'd
with multiplicity of Business: But ne-
ver any Creature seem'd so much con-
cern'd as he did, when I told him I was
with Child by him, which he told me

was impossible. And then was I fain to hector and threaten, and made as if I wou'd have acquainted his Master and Mistress with it; and spoke with such a loud Voice, that he desir'd me to speak softly, and told me since it was so, he would take care of me and the Child. So that without pretending to be with Child, there wou'd ha' been nothing done. But by that pretence I have not only got this piece of *Holland*, but three Crowns besides: But you can't imagine how shy he was; For tho' I gave him an Invitation to take another Rubbers with me, yet he put it off, and pretended he cou'dn't stay, but promis'd to come and see me very suddenly, and then he wou'd.

Sharp. Hang him, if he has no mind to the Game, you'l have but little good of him, and therefore be sure you make what you can of him. For, I find, if he bleeds, he must be frighten'd into what he does. I'd have you send Captain *Bluff* to him, and let him pretend to be your Husband, He may get a piece of Money of him, and you may go half Snacks.

Trick.

58 *A Linnen-Draper's Apprentice,*

Trick. No, I don't like that so well ; for if I have a Husband, then I can't put him upon keeping the Child. And therefore I think I had best get what I can from him under pretence of the Charge of Lying-in, and providing Cloaths for the Child, and other incident Charges, and after all that's done, I have another way to make a Penny on him, which you perhaps never thought on.

Sharp. Pray what Way's that ?

Tric. Why I'll tell you, I'll go to a Proctor in *Doctør's Commons*, and dress my self up with a great Belly, and tell him that 'tis *Spruceman* got it, and tell him his Circumstances, and what a Penny he may make of him ; by threatning to bring him into the *Spiritual Court* ; and I'm sure this will almost fright the *Wisey* out of his Wits.

Sharp. Well, but what will you get by all this ?

Tric. Why before I tell him any thing, I'll make an Agreement with him to go half Snacks in what he gets.

Sharp.

Sharp. That's well enough : But then I'll tell you what you shall do, in order to that, tell him you have been inform'd against by some of your malicious Neighbours, and that a Proctor has been with you, and you have been forc'd to tell the Truth : And so they intend to come to him ; but let him know that you have desir'd him to come very civilly, and that it is your Advice to him, that he wou'd give him a piece of Money, and so make an end of it ; for you must tell him, that to be brought into *Doctor's Commons*, is the Devil and all ; for there's no Court so wicked as the *Spiritual Court* : For if it proceeds, they'll bring him to stand in a white Sheet, at *St. Peter's Church*, and make him do Pennance ; which will so fright him, that he'll be willing to give a good round Sum, I'll warrant him, tho' he steal it from his Master.

Trick. Let him steal it where he will, that's nothing to me, so I do but get it.

Sharp. You are in the right for that ; and I believe in a fair way to get the Money too.

Young

Young *Spruceman* being uneasie for fear *Tricker* shou'd come to him again, gets his Kinsman to desire his Master to let him go out of Town with him for two or three days, which his Kinsman did, and his Master very willingly granted. And then they agreed to make a Visit to Mrs. *Tricker*. *Spruceman* propos'd the going to her first, and bringing her to the Tavern; and there his Kinsman shou'd come and take 'em together: But his Kinsman was for going up after him into the Chamber where she lay, in hopes he might there find the Piece of *Holland* that she had of him, and thereby so much Money wou'd be sav'd: Upon which the Kinsman's Advice was follow'd. The Matter thus resolv'd on, they went together to the Place, with a Friend of his Kinsman's that was a Constable; and *Spruceman* going up first, and finding his *Miss* at home, accosts her thus:

Spruceman. Dear Mrs. *Tricker*, you see I am now as good as my Word; and have took the first Opportunity I cou'd to give you a Visit.

Tric.

Tric. Sir, You are heartily welcome; I thought I shou'd have seen you no more.

Spruce. Why shou'd you entertain so unkind a Thought of me; you know I can't come when I wou'd: But where's your Landlady? [*Enter Sharp.*]

Sharp. At your Service, Master; ready to fetch a Bottle of Wine for you.

Spruce. You know your Business, I perceive; Here's Money, go fetch it quickly.

Sharp. I will, Sir.

Tric. Well, Sir, if we shall do any thing, let's lose no time, for Mrs. *Sharper* will be here again presently.

Spruce. Do any thing, my Dear! Yes, yes, yes, we'll do something to be sure: But I don't love to be hurried, or to do any thing rashly: I love to drink first, And then we'll go to it.

Tric. I find Mr. *Spruceman*, you an't so brisk as you were at first: I love a Man that is all Life and Spirit; not one that takes up so much time in thinking what he'll do 'ere he begins. But, hark, I think the Door is open'd: Here's Miss *Sharper* come back again already.

Spruce.

Spruce. Well, what cou'd we ha' done in this short space!

Tric. We might have had one Rubbers well enough, if you had but been brisk.

Enter Kinsman and Constable.

Kinsman O cou'd ye so? I do believe that, but I shall spoil your Sport: So Gentleman! Is this your going to receive a Bill at *Westminster*? I see I have a trusty Servant of you. And now I find that what I heard is true, I have been told indeed you follow'd naughty Women, and I see plainly that 'tis true enough.

Tric. There's no naughty Women here, Sir, I'll assure you.

Kins. How, Impudence, no naughty Women here; pray what are you, that you keep Company thus with my Servant?

Tric. Your Servant, Sir? I don't know that he is your Servant.

Kins. But I do, and I know 'tis such impudent Women as you are, that delude him. Come Mr. *Constable*, pray search the Chamber; I have lost a great many Goods, and I don't know but I may find some of 'em here. — Pray
look

look into these Drawers; they look like the Repository of stolen Goods.

Constab. Here's a piece of *Holland* here, I know not whose it is.

Kinsf. I'll swear this is mine; here's my very Mark upon't; How came you by this, pray *Mistriss*?

Tric. Why your Man, if he be so, made me a Present of it.

Kinsf. to *Francis*, How, young Man! do you make Presents of my Goods?

Spruce. Sir, She came to our Shop, and cheapen'd some Goods, and took it away with her.

Kinsf. O did she so? *Mr. Constable* I pray take care of her, I'll do her Business for her, I'll warrant her.

Tric. Pray Sir, don't charge me with any such thing, for I do assure you 'tis all false: For this young Man inveigled me, and promis'd me Marriage, and so got me with Child; and gave me this piece of Cloth to make some Clouts of.

Kinsf. He give it you! He cou'dn't give it you without he stole it; and the Receiver is as bad as the Thief.

Spruce.

Spruce. Pray Sir, forgive me what I have done, and I'll tell you all the Matter.

Kins. If you'll promise me to forsake these wicked Courses and Company, I don't know but I may.

Upon this Promise, *Spruceman* told her the beginning of his Intreague with *Mrs. Tric.* and how she pretended to be with Child; and how she had made him promise to maintain both her and it. And thereupon the Kinsman and the Constable took a more particular View of what was in her Chamber, among which they found the Copy of a Letter to *Spruceman's* Father, which they presently burn'd, and then took *Mrs. Tric.* along with them, and had her to the Matrons of *Bridewel*, and there causing her to be search'd by a couple of Midwives, they not only found she was not with Child; but also that she was a common Strumpet, and had several Times receiv'd the Correction of the House. Upon which the Constable did her the kind Office to have her before a Justice of Peace, by whom she was committed to *Bridewel* there

his Miss, and his Landlady. 65

that there to beat Hemp amongst the rest
of the Fraternity; where to allay the
itching of her Tayl, she was let blood
taken the Back, by one of the Beadles :
y, And young Spruceman, being glad he
was so deliver'd out of the Claws of
that Harpy, became afterwards a very
with a young Man.

to be
mad see, see, young Men, and hence learn to beware
of falling into a leud Woman's Snare :
r and And come not near the Chambers where they dwell,
a and their ways are Death, their steps take hold of Hell :
cula they take their wanton Steps abroad each day,
er, and cannot rest, until they've caught their Prey :
y of And having once entangled him, their Care
which how to keep him fast, within their Snare :
too to practise Mischief is their chiefest Joy ;
d ha for care they what they do, so they destroy :
y, an d thousand Lies they care not, if they feign,
d by so they can but their cursed Ends obtain :
only hus Spruceman, a young Youth, hot, wanton, wild,
ut all to a Whore's Embraces was beguil'd ;
t, an And that she might of him a Cully make,
Corre What damn'd Devices did she undertake ?
ich the And then the better to bes fool the Elf,
office be with Child she quickly feigns her self :
ce, b ven does again provoke him unto Sin,
ridew And duns for Money for her Lying-in :
the And next resolves she'll to a Proctor go,
that she his Reputation might o'erthrow ;
And lay for him such a Destructive Train,
that she her self might half the Money gain ;

But

66 *A Linnen-Draper's Apprentice.*

*But Spruceman's Kinsman serv'd her in her kind,
When she in Bridewel was to th' Lash consign'd :
By which the Web she had so finely wrought,
Was in a moment unto nothing brought.
May all such Jilts as she be flang'd with Holly,
And all young Men learn to beware of Folly.*

D I A

DIALOGUE III.

Between *Cornutus* a Cuckold, *Meretricia* his Wife, and *Hector* her Gallant.

C*ornutus.* Why look ye, Wife, I'll be a Fool no more; to sup on Bread and Cheese and drink small Beer, whilst you and your Gallant can feed on Capons, and ripple with Canary and good Clarret.

Meretricia. Why how now, Jackanapes? D'ye know who you tell your Tale to? Sup on Bread and Cheese, d'ye say? Marry you're mightily hurt indeed! What's better for the Stomach then a sparing Supper? And as for Small Beer, that's fittest for such a Paper-scul'd Lump of Mortality as you are. Besides, even that is more than you earn, or more than you deserve either. You'd have Capon, and Sack, and Clarret, and be choak'd to you, would

I A

wou'd ye? In good time indeed! I hope you'll help to get it then: Wou'd any but such a Sot as you are, lie lazing at home all day, and let all the Burden lie upon your Wife? 'Tis like ye indeed! But I'll assure ye, I'll take another course with ye, if ye don't mend your manners, and that quickly too.

Cor. Why what will you do?

Mer. Why, I'd make ye——

Cor. A Cuckold perhaps.

Mer. That is'nt to do now, Goodman Sneaks.

Cor. I believe so too, truly.

Mer. Why if you are a Cuckold, 'tis your own fault: For if I didn't get something, I might starve, and so might you too.

Cor. A very pretty Excuse indeed! you must play the Whore, or else you must starve! Why if you were an honest Woman, nothing could make you play the Whore.

Mer. Whore, Sirrah! Why you impudent Rascal, you; call me Whore again, and I'll break your Head.

Cor. Why you won't offer to fight will you!

Mer.

Mer. You had'nt best provoke me further; for if you do, you shall find whether I'll fight or no.

Cor. But heark ye, Wife; who do you think was here to day?

Mer. I can't tell: who was it?

Cor. I won't tell you, because you are so ill condition'd.

Mer. Nay, prethee dear Lovee do.

Cor. No, not I; I shall have nothing but small Beer and Bread and Cheese, if I do.

Mer. Thee sha't have any thing Child, if thee wou't but tell me.

Cor. May be you'll break my Head if I do; and so it may be dangerous —

Mer. No, no; that was but a hasty Word: You know when I'm provok'd, I'll talk a little, but that's all. But prethee tell me who it was that was here?

Cor. You see what an easie — Cuckold I was going to say, I am; for a few good Words has prevail'd upon me. — Why it was — But will you answer me one Question first?

Mer. The Man's a Fool, I think: Either tell me, or —

Cor. — Or what?

D

Mer.

Mer. Or you may let it alone, if you will : who cares ?

Cor. Why so I will let it alone, if you won't answer my Question.

Mer. Well, what Question is it then ?

Cor. Will you answer it ?

Mer. How can I tell before I know it ?

Cor. Why it is whether I am a Cuckold or not ?

Mer. Why you Fool, how can I answer that Question ? You know that best your self ?

Cor. How so ?

Mer. Why I'll tell you : A Cuckold is so call'd from the Bird call'd a *Cuckoo*, who lays his Eggs in another Bird's Nest, when the Bird is absent, and then the Bird comes and sits upon those Eggs and hatches 'em, as if they were his own. — Now you can tell best whether you have been busie in another Man's Nest : If you have, you're a Cuckold ; if you have not, you're no Cuckold.

Cor. Uds-niggers-noggers then I was quite mistaken ; for I took a Cuckold to be another sort of thing.

Mer.

Mer. Why what did you take a Cuckold to be?

Cor. Why I took a Cuckold to be one whose Wife had let another Man come and lay Eggs in his Nest.

Mer. You were quite mistaken in the matter: But now your Question's answer'd, pray who was it that was here?

Cor. I'll tell ye, but then you must answer me another Question after I have told ye.

Mer. Yes, yes, I'll answer you twenty if you will, then. But who was it?

Cor. Why here was a very Beauish sort of a Man, with his Hat button'd up on both sides, and behind too, with a Sword by his side; and he look'd as big as Bull-Beef: But who he was I cannot tell. —

Mer. Why, what a Coxcomb are you, to make all this stir about telling me who was here, and know nothing of the matter?

Cor. You're too hasty — I say, who he was I can't tell, only he ask'd for you, and bid me tell you his Name was *Hector*.

Mer. Mr. *Hector*! was he here! Did'nt he say when he wou'd be here agen?

Cor. Yes, he said he wou'd be here again at four a Clock in the Afternoon.

Mer. Did he so? Marry then I must get my self drest, and get things set to rights.

Cor. But Wife, I hope you'll answer me one question, now I've told you.

Mer. Well, What is't, let me know quickly.

Cor. I perceive you're in haste then now.

Mer. Yes, so I am; I have something else to do, than to stand prating with you: Come, your Question.

Cor. It is but a short one, and this is it, Pray is'nt Mr. *Hector* a Cuckold?

Mer. An't you a Fool to ask me such a question? How can I tell whether he be a Cuckold or not?

Cor. Yes you can tell whether ever you let him lay any of his Eggs in my Nest?

Mer. I can tell you're a jealous-pated Coxcomb! But I'll cure you of that Distemper.

[Exit.]

Cor.

Cor. Cure me of that Distemper! What does she mean by that, I wonder? — Let me see — Mr. *Hector* will be here at four a Clock, and I believe he must work the Cure; that is, keep me no longer in doubt whether I am a Cuckold or no, but give me very convincing Arguments that I am one. — And if he does, for ought I know, it may make me turn *Hector* too. But how shall I be thus convinc'd? Nothing but ocular Demonstration will do it. — Well, I'll go into the Chamber, and hide my self under the Bed; and then if I don't see, I shall at least hear what will sufficiently convince me. And when I have once found it out,

It is not all her Bullies shall protect her.

I'll prove my self a more than Trojan Hector:

[Exit.]

Enter *Hector*, *Meretricia*, and *Cornutus* under the Bed.

Hector. My dear *Meretricia*, I rejoyce to see you; I thought every Minute an Age, that I was absent from you.

D 3

Mer.

Mer. I know not what you did, but I am sure I scarce cou'd sleep a Nights for thinking of you.

Hect. But where's your Husband?

Mer. He's gone abroad, you may be sure; for when you visit me, he has no Business here.

Hector. Then prethee let's improve the precious Minutes; and lose our time no longer: I am full charg'd with love, and long to give it thee.

[*Cornutus to himself under the Bed:*] Do ye so, Sir? A precious Rogue indeed! I see I shall be cur'd of my Jealousie very quickly, if I don't prevent it.

Mer. You may be sure I won't be for protracting of my Happiness: And am as ready to receive the Love you're charg'd withal, as you can be to give it me.

(*Cornut.* A damn'd Bitch! They're both agreed to work this Cure upon me.)

Hect. Well, my dear *Meretricia*; I'll draw my Sword, and lay my Pistol by me, to prevent all Surprise: For who e'er comes to disturb us in the Enjoyment
of

of our Pleasures, I'll lodge a brace of Bullets in his Belly.

(*Cornut.* O murderous Dog ! Well, I must e'en be contented ; for I had rather let him lay his Eggs in my Nest, than lodge his Bullets in my Belly : The Dog has put me into a bodily fear, at the very thoughts of it : I'd give a Crown that I cou'd get away.)

Mer. You have nothing to be afraid on, dear Mr. *Hector* : There's only you and I in the House.

Hect. I think your Husband's a good honest contented Cuckold, and so you may do what you will for him.

Mer. That's owing to my good managing him : He'd be bad enough , if I shou'd let him have his Head ; but I keep him under, and so he's willing to do any thing.

(*Cornutus.* O what an impudent Bitch is this, to talk so of her Husband ! Tho' she's in the right of it too ; for if I cou'd but master her, I'd make the Devil go to wood with her. — But she knows I'm a Coward, and so she makes me a Cuckold.)

Hector. Well, don't let us talk any more :

*To reap our mutual Joys, let us fall to,
And what some only talk of, let us do.*

(Cornut. Well, I'm grown valiant of a sudden, for I can bear no longer.

*I'll seize his Sword and Pistol, tho' I die :
Which having done, they'll at my mercy lie.)*

Cornutus, While they were acting their Wickedness, creeps softly from under the Bed, and (unperceiv'd by them who had other Business in hand, which they were more intent upon) takes the drawn Sword in one Hand, and the cock'd Pistol in the other, and then coming to the Bed side, spoil'd their Sport, by saying,

Cornut. Have I caught you then at last ? *(Hector* thereupon going to seize upon the Pistol; *Cornutus* said, hold Sir, your Arms are in my Hand, and if you offer but to stir, you shall as surely die, as you're alive. You Sir, wou'd lodge a brace of Bullets in my Belly, wou'd you?

you? 'Tis my Turn now to lodge a
brace in yours. — And you, damn'd
Strumpet, what have you to say, to
cloak your Wickedness? Wou'd it not
now be just in me to run this Sword
into your Belly, and send you to the
Devil headlong? Is this your Manage-
ment, with a Pox t' you: Now 'tis my
Turn to manage you: [*She weeps.*]

Hector. As for my self, Sir, I have no-
thing to say; you may do your Pleasure;
if you kill me, I own I have done e-
nough to deserve it. But for your Wife,
let me intreat for her, for it was I that
tempted her, and drew her in, to do
what she has done.

Mer. Indeed it was, my Dear; and
since the Gentleman's so generous to own
it, prethee my Dear forgive us both;
come, you have sinn'd your self, I'm
sure; and wou'd'nt you be glad to be
forgiven? And as for Management,
you shall manage me as you please: If
you'll but pass this by, I'll be a special
Wife hereafter, and you shall govern
me as you think fit: Besides my Dear,
whatever I have giv'n the Gentleman;
yet I have still enough reserv'd for you:

A Cuckold, his Wife,

You'll find as much, when you've occasion for't, as e'er you did before.

Cornut. Nay, if I hadn't caught you thus, I shou'dn't a mist it, that's the Truth on't.

Mer. No, I know you wou'd'nt. Come my Dear, be generous, and forgive us freely: I know you are no cruel Man, Lovee.

Cornut. You are so far in the right: I am no very revengeful Man indeed: But what must I have no Satisfaction?

Hector. Satisfaction, Sir, Yes: You shall have what you desire. What is't you demand?

Cornut. Demand! — Why let me see — you can't do less than treat me.

Mer. He shall give ye a Bottle of Wine and a Capon, Dearee.

Cornut. A Bottle of Wine! Nay, sure 'tis worth two Bottles of Wine, or else 'tis worth nothing.

Hector. I don't stand upon that Sir: You shall have a dozen Bottles of Wine, and a couple of the best Fowls we can buy, and be merry. And here's half a Crown, Sir, to fetch a Bottle of Wine upon the Conclusion of the Bargain.

Cornut.

Cornut. You speak like a very civil Gentleman indeed, Sir. Now hang me if I have any Power to resist such a fair offer. But Wife, if I forgive you, you know I'm to govern now.

Mer. Ay, so you are, Lovee, and so you shall too ; and I'll be a good Wife besides.

Cornut. Come then, we'll kiss and be Friends. Well, Mr. *Hector*, while you get up, I'll go and fetch the Wine ; but pray Sir uncharge this Pistol, for I don't love to to see a Pistol charg'd.

Hector. Sir, I'll let it off into the Air.

Cornut. By no means, pray Sir, for the Bullet may chance to fall down again, and hurt some body or other.

Hector. Why then I'll pluck out the Charge with my Screw.

Cornut. I, that's the best way by half, Sir. Well I'll go fetch the Wine. [*Exit.*

Cornutus alone.

Cornut. Well, I think I have done this Business to a Miracle: For first, I let 'em know what I cou'd do, had I been minded: And I made 'em both beg and pray for their Lives: And then I made

made 'em uncharge his Pistol, and put up his Sword; and I'm to have a good Treat, besides the Bottle of Wine I'm now going to fetch: And besides, I am to govern, and there's a great matter in that: And another thing is, I am well rid of the Sword and Pistol without doing any harm. And isn't this better than to have kill'd 'em? Or if I shou'd have mist my Blow, how can I tell but they might have kill'd me and where shou'd I have been then? Or if I had kill'd them, I might have been hang'd for it for ought I know: for I had no Witness by; and they wou'd a been hang'd before they wou'd have own'd that I kill'd 'em in my own Defence: And therefore I think 'tis best as 'tis. — I'll e'en go fetch the Wine, and drink one half pint at the Tavern, because I'll give 'em time to make themselves ready. [Exit.

Meretricia and Hector.

Mer. Well, I think we have had a happy Deliverance, Mr. *Hector*: For your Sword and Pistol, instead of helping us, was that which brought us into Danger.

Hector,

Hector. It did so, indeed ; for had the Pistol gone off, we might both of us have been kill'd, and the Fool cou'dn't have help'd it. I knew the Pistol was cock'd, and I saw his Hand shake, while he held it ; and I was more afraid of its going off by that means, than any other way : For when he begun to argue, I thought there was no great danger from him. — But how came he into the Chamber ? Didnt you say he was gone abroad ?

Mer. I thought he had ; but instead of that, he came up hither, and hid himself under the Bed. — But I think I coax'd him up finely.

Hector. You did indeed : you did it to a Nicety : but since he has been so kind to leave us in Bed together, let us lose no time, but finish what we were about, when he interrupted us.

Mer. *With all my heart, I'll do what-e'er you will ;*

*For the more Danger, the more Honour
Still.*

Con-

Conclusion.

Here Reader view what often comes to pass,
 A whorish Woman with a Front of Brass :
 And in her Husband, you have at one view
 A Fool, a Cuckold, and a Coward too :
 Her Impudence, when she'd convicted been,
 Shews she was hardned in a Course of Sin :
 The Bully scarcely, wou'd peccavi cry,
 But as he'd lived in Sin, meant so to die.
 And had the Cuckold kill'd 'em, 'thad been just ;
 Putting an end to their unbounded Lust :
 But he who shou'd a just Revenge have took,
 By his own Courage being quite forsook,
 And so wou'd nothing unto either do,
 Was both a Cuckold and a Wittal too :
 And ought by every one abhorr'd to be,
 As bringing on himself that Infamy.

DIA-

DIALOGUE IV.

Between a *Batchelor*, a *Widower*, and a
married Man, about the Choice of a
Wife : With the Character of a *Scold* :
 a *Slut*, and a *Whore*.

B *Atchelor*, Then you'd have me take a
 Wife you say ?

Widdower. Ay, by all means, Neighbour.

Batch. For what reason pray ?

Wid. I wou'd'nt have you pay your Mo-
 ney for Nothing.

Batch. How do you mean pay my Money
 for nothing ?

Wid. Why you pay to the Queen's Tax
 every year, for being a Batchelor, And I'd
 have you marry, and get something for your
 Money.

Batch. I han't done that so long neither :
 And I think 'tis better to pay for living a
 Batchelor, than to be troubled and plagu'd
 with a bad Wife, as many are.

Wid. That's true too ; 'tis better to have
 no Wife than a bad one. —

Marry'd Man. I deny that, Neighbour ;
 'tis better to have a bad Wife, than none,

Wid.

Wid. Pray how d'ye make that out; Neighbour: I never heard that affirm'd before.

Mar. Man. Why I make it out thus: He that has a bad Wife may have Children by her; and Children are a Blessing: But he that has no Wife, can never expect that Blessing.

Batch. That's more than you know, Neighbour: I believe there's a great many have Children, that never had a Wife.

Mar. Man. That I believe; but may be you may know better than I; for perhaps you can speak by Experience. — But then such Children are no Blessings, for I never heard that a Bastard was a Blessing.

Wid. Marry there's many a married Man's Children that have been no Blessings to him neither.

Batch. And it may be none of his own Children neither, for all he's married.

Wid. There's many a true Word spoken in jest, the *Proverb* says, — Well, but you have all the World before you, Neighbour; and therefore you need not despair of getting a good Wife: And that you'll own, I hope, to be a great Blessing.

Batch. I'll own it to be a great Rarity; for I believe a Man may go a great way before he meets with one.

Mr. Man. I don't think so Sir: For I have gone but a little way, and I have met with a very good one,

Batch.

Batch. I'll assure you, Sir, you can say more than a great many that I know. But will you part with her Sir, upon any reasonable Terms?

Married M. Why do you ask that Question?

Batch. Because if you wou'd perhaps I might be your Chapman: for I want a good one my self.

Mar. M. I believe an ordinary one wou'd serve your Turn, since I perceive you're for reasonable Terms.

Batch. I am so, Sir: for a Man may buy Gold too dear.

Mar. M. Well, Sir: You must seek further; I'll assure you; for I won't part with mine upon any terms.

Wid. Why Neighbour, I believe I cou'd help you to a good Wife.

Batch. I doubt that very much!

Wid. Why so?

Batch. Because you want a good one your self; and I believe if you knew of a good one, you'd help your self first; for Charity begins at home.

Wid. I have had one, and perhaps have no occasion for another; and because I had some Experience in the matter, can the better recommend a good one to you.

Batch. I can scarce believe that: For how can I think he that chose a bad one for himself, will choose a good one for me?

Wid.

Wid. Why do you say I chose a bad one for my self? You never heard me complain of my Wife.

Batch. 'Tis no matter for that: You have been a Widower above a Year and an half; and from thence I guess your last Wife was so bad, you are loth to venture upon another: Whereas had your first been good, you wou'd have been married again in half a Years time at furthest.

Wid. You are quite out in your arguing; for my not marrying again all this while, shews that having buried a good Wife, I can't easily forget her; and despair of meeting with such another.

Batch. Hearke, Friend; Don't you give me great Encouragement to think you can help me to a good Wife, when you despair of getting another your self? But for my part, I am clearly of Opinion that he that has had a good Wife, can't better express his Love, than by marrying again as soon as he can: For he that has had Experience of one good one, will be easily periwaded he may meet with another; and so is the less difficult in making his Choice.

Mar. Man. Indeed, Sir, I am of your Opinion; for if my Wife shou'd happen to die, I'd have another as soon as I cou'd. And therefore if you want a good Wife, you had best let me help you: For I have the Charity to believe, that there are several young Maidens, that wou'd make very good Wives.

Batch.

Batch. With-all my heart, Sir ; I shou'd be glad if you can help me to a good one.

Wid. Well, Mr. *Batchelor*, I perceive you have discarded me, and refus'd my assistance in this momentous Affair: But tho' I don't chuse the Person, I may the better give you my Advice, as being no way concern'd ; for sometimes a Stander by, sees more than a Gamester: What I have to say therefore in my Friend's behalf, is this: If you wou'd have my Friend help you to a good Wife, you must let him know what kind of good Wife you wou'd have ; for there are several sorts of Wives that are good ; and therefore if you don't tell him which sort of good it is that you mean, how is it possible that he shou'd please you? Let him first know your Mind, and he'll know the better how to lay out your Money.

Batch. Methinks, Sir, you perplex the Cause, in talking of so many sorts of good Wives ; I have been told there was but one good Wife, and every Man had her. Pray tell me therefore how many sorts of good Wives there are, and then I'll tell you which it is I'll chuse.

Mar. M. I think indeed that will be very convenient, or else I shall be left at an uncertainty.

Wid. Well then, to make the matter easie, and not to perplex the Cause, as this *Batchelor* thinks I do, I'll tell you how many sorts of good Wives there are: There are some
Wive

Wives that are good at drinking Ale and Brandy; especially the latter: These are such good Souls, that a little matter pleases 'em, provided you do but take care to replenish the Bottle: And as for any thing else, they are very easie: You may come in and go out when you please, and they'll never find fault, provided the Bottle ben't empty; for that's their Comfort still. And these good Women have one excellent Property, if their Husbands grow a weary of 'em, let them have but Brandy enough, and they won't trouble 'em long. And then there's another sort of Wives, that are good to learn a Man Patience; for they will always give him occasion to exercise it: These are good to espy a Knot in a Bull-rush, and find a Fault where there's none, on purpose that they may make one: Thus a certain good Wife (within the Sound of Bow-Bell) whose Husband had invited some Friends to Dinner, when the Cloth was laid, and Dinner brought up, and plac'd upon the Table, and the Guests just ready to sit down; found fault with the Maid for laying on the wrong Table-Cloth, and pulling it hastily off, flung all the *Vi-ctuals* upon the Ground; and then went down, and left her Husband and his Friends to take it up again; and this was a good Woman indeed; for by this Action she inspir'd her Husband with Patience, and one of his Guests with Wit; for the Gentleman's Name being *Cross*, he made the following Distich upon him.

Thou

*Thou mad'st thy self thy Cross, and woo'd'st thy
Wo:*

Thy Wife is Cross, and thou hast made her so.

There's another sort of good Wives, that are good to make Horns for their Husbands, and those are things of great use; and these good Women because they know their Husbands lead none of the most regular Lives; take care themselves to send 'em to Heaven; for thither it is all Cuckolds go, as the *Proverb* tell us — There are other Wives that bring good Portions with 'em; and I think that's very good; and then they are as good to find out Ways and Means to spend it when they have done. — There are other Wives that are good to run their Husbands in Debt, by their extravagant Courses; these are good to sit up and game all the Night, and lie a bed all the Morning: Then eat their Dinners, and go to the Playhouse in the Afternoon. — But it wou'd be too tedious to enlarge upon them all: And therefore I'll sum 'em up in brief: There are some are *very good*; (but these are but very few,) others are *good enough* for them that have 'em; tho' they are none of the best: Others are *good for little*: And a great many that are *good for nothing at all*. And in all this variety, you ought to tell your Friend which of all these Good Wives you wou'd choose.

Batch.

Batch. Upon the whole matter, I believe I had best continue as I am : For you own that there are but few *very good* ; and for all the rest, I don't think 'em *good enough* ; for they are good but for little ; and the most part I perceive, *are good for nothing at all.* And indeed it is a great doubt whether any of 'em are very good ; for the Form of Marriage obliges us to take the *very best* of 'em for *better for worse.* And who but a Mad-Man wou'd run the risque of Taking one for *better for worse*, when the generality oftner proves rather *worse* than *better* ? A Man had need propound some mighty advantage to himself, that will venture to tie himself to a Woman as long as he lives, upon such a *bad-I-wist.*

Mar. M. You are too sharp, upon the Women Sir. And if you don't take up more favourable Sentiments of 'em, I won't undertake to procure a Wife for you.

Batch. A good Wife I believe you may well despair of helping me to, unless it be one of my Neighbour's good Wives he was speaking of, that are good for nothing, unless it be to drink Brandy, to learn a Man Patience, to make him a Cuckold, and perhaps a Beggar too : And such good Qualities as these, I have no Fancy for.

Mar. M. You mustn't mind what he said, Sir. He did but jest.

Batch. That may be ; but yet you know there's many a true word spoken in Jest.

Mar. M.

Married M. Why do you think there's no good Women?

Batch. No, by no means, Sir: I am so far from thinking so, that I believe they are all good; some for something, and others for nothing.

Mar. M. Whatever slight Esteem you may have of 'em, I could give you Instances of Women as eminent for Piety and Virtue, as ever trod upon the Earth, and for all other Accomplishments too.

Batch. I believe they are some Rarities: Pray let us hear who and what they were.

Mar. M. Nay, they are such as I need not be ashamed to mention. — Pray what d'ye think of *Sarah*, the Wife of the great *Abraham*; who was not only a very beautiful Woman, but a good Wife; recommended in the Scripture for all Women to follow, as an Example of Obedience to her Husband.

Batch. There's no body can deny but that *Sarah* was a good Woman, and a good Wife: But yet I don't like her in some things; for she perswaded her Husband to get his Maid with Child, and then made him turn her out of Doors, and the Child too: Now what would you think of your Wife, if she shou'd do so by you?

Mr. M. The times are chang'd now, and no such thing is lawful to be done. --- But to deal ingenuously with you, if my Wife consented I shou'd get my Maid with Child, I'd make her consent to keep it.

Batch.

Batch. And I think you wou'd be in the right on't : Tho' I must do *Sarah* this Justice; that I believe she was a kinder Woman to her Husband, than any this Age can afford : For I believe very few Wives now wou'd give their Husbands that Liberty.

Widower. No, I dare say they wou'dn't : For they are so far from that, they'll scarce admit their Husband to look upon another Woman ; and if he does but Kiss one, they strait conclude it is in order to commit Adultery with her.

Batch. But methinks it shews a great scarcity of good Women, that in the space of two Thousand years you are not able to shew us one, but make *Sarah* your first Instance, who lived two Thousand years after the Creation of the World. — But this may be imputed either to forgetfulness, or want of knowledge; and therefore I'll tell you of a Woman, and a good Woman too ; nay, perhaps the best that ever liv'd in the World ; that was two thousand years before *Sarah* was born ; and that was our great Grandmother *Eve* : For her Beauty, I believe none ever excell'd her, as she was the immediate Workmanship of a Divine Hand ; and for her Goodness, none was ever like her, seeing he that made her pronoun'd her very good, without the least allay of any Evil : Happy in her own Perfections, and so repleat with Holiness and Righteousness, that she enjoy'd Communion with her Maker, who also was her

her Father, and gave her to her Husband ; a Husband so kind, so good, so nearly related to her, that she was indeed Bone of his Bone, and Flesh of his Flesh : In short, the beautiful Frame of her Body, and the exalted Perfections of her Mind, were such, as made her want but little of an Angel. --- But after all, she was a Woman, a fickle, variable and inconstant Creature : For wandering from her Husband, she met with the Devil ; and entering into a Discourse with him, with whom she had no Business, she was soon overcome by his Temptations, and turn'd Rebel to her God, and Traytor to her Husband ; and entail'd a Curse upon all her Posterity : And as it is common for Wine to retain a Tang of the Vessel in which it was contain'd, so all the Daughters of *Eve* are troubled with *Fits of the Mother*, even to this Day ; Which is the true Reason that (as my Neighbour says here) there are so many of them that are good for nothing ; and so very few that are tolerably good.

Wid. Grammercy Boy ! There's not a word of a Lye in all this, I'll justify't. Well, Mr. *Married Man*, what say you to all this ? Isn't your Wife a Daughter of *Eve* too ?

Mar. Man. She's a Daughter of *Eve* too, no doubt : But all the Daughters of *Eve* an't like their Mother.

Batch. No really Sir, no more they ben't ; They want all the Good she had, and retain nothing but the Evil,

Mar. Man. Come, come, you are too hard upon the Women, on my Word : There's very good Women in the World ; I can speak it by Experience : For I have a very good Woman to my Wife, for my part.

Wid. You dare say no otherwise, I am sure ; that is, if you mean to live a quiet Life ; and therefore your Judgment isn't to be rely'd upon : I know your Wife well enough : She's good, I confess : that is, to learn a Man Patience. And if you have made any Progress in it, it is for your Peace as well as for your Wife's Credit.

Mar. Man. You need not be so forward to condemn my Wife, for I have heard that your own was none of the best.

Wid. No more she wasn't indeed, the more was my Sorrow : And to tell you the Truth, I have had three of 'em in all, but never a good one among 'em, tho' I han't been very forward to tell you so. The first of 'em had she been as faithful as she was fair, might have made any Man happy ; but instead of that, she was as false as Hell ; and prov'd a notorious Strumper : and yet veil'd it all under the greatest shew of Devotion imaginable ; so that I thought I had an Angel in my Bed, but found I had the Devil in my Arms. Which yet I shou'd never have found, but by a Letter I receiv'd from one of her Fellow-Sinners ; which indeed was entertaining enough ; but the Story is too long to tell you.

Batch. Dear Sir, let me beg you to oblige us with a Relation of it ; for since you have

be

been pleas'd to tell us so much, you have put us a longing to hear the whole ; which may not only make me (for I won't speak for this Gentleman, because he's married, but it may have that effect upon me) to Sympathize with you in your Misfortunes, and be a means to prevent my own.

Mar. Man. Tho' I am a married Man, yet I shall heartily joyn with this Gentleman, in his request of your giving us a Relation of the Intreagues of your first Wife: It may be a means to make me look after mine so much the more strictly, lest I should be deceiv'd as well as you.

Wid. Well, Gentlemen, since you both joyn in your Desires, you shall prevail: Only I'm afraid you'll think me too tedious,

Both Not at all, Sir ; not at all.

Wid. Well, then I'll begin. — I think I have already told you that my first Wife was a very beautiful Woman ; even to that degree, that you may walk through all the Streets of *London*, and hardly see a fairer. Her Looks and her Behaviour so modest, that *Lucretia* her self could hardly appear chaster: And so extreemly given to Devotion, that she rise every Morning by six a Clock to go to Prayers to *Sr. Christopher's*; and this it was that gave me first some little Suspicion of her; insomuch that I follow'd her one Morning, to see whether it was indeed Devotion that call'd her out so early every Morning: I am very confident that she knew no-

thing of my following her, nor did I ever give her any cause so much as to think that I suspected her : But so it was, that she went directly to the Church, and staid till Prayers were done, and then came home again, without going any where else. Having observed this, unknown to her, I thought my self happy in the best Wife in the World ; and never in the least suspected her, till about half a year after, that I receiv'd the following Letter.

S-I-R,

THo' the Name, and much more the Business, of an Informer, was always my Aversion ; yet the respect I have for you, whom I know to be one of the best natur'd Men in the World, and whose obliging Carriage, not to say Fondness, towards your Wife, is so conspicuous to all the Neighbourhood in which you live, will no longer suffer me to let you be abus'd by her as you are : Whom, whilst you think to be as chaste as a Dove, is as salacious as a Sparrow : And under the Masque of Religion and Piety, plays the Devil for God's sake ; exposing your Honour, and prostituting her Chastity to the lustful Embraces of every Libidinous Stallion : But having thus touch'd you in the tenderest Part, and which will with difficulty admit of belief, I will put you in a way to satisfie your self of the Truth of it ; to do which, you need do no more than give your self the trouble of following her any Morning incognito ; and you will easily see into
what

what House she goes: And having done so, if you will but have the Patience of tarrying a-while, when you have seen her Hous'd, you may go in after her; but not without a particular Recommendation; which that you may not want, you may ask for the Gentlewoman of the House, and acquaint her, that you was directed thither by Jack Lovil, to pay your respects to the Ladies in the Dining-Room. His Name will certainly give you a ready Admission, for he is both a good Customer to the House himself, and has sent several others: And after you are admitted into the Dining-Room, you will be convinc'd of the Truth of what I say; and then your own Discretion will direct you what to do: This is all from

Your unknown Friend and Servant,

E. S.

You cannot easily imagine the Confusion that this Letter put me into: Nor cou'd I tell where to find this E. S. or whether it was Man or Woman. After a thousand Imaginations, I concluded it came from some that knew and envy'd my Happiness; and so sought to make a Difference between my Wife and I: But seeing I was referr'd to so casie a way of satisfying my self, I resolv'd to leave it to that Issue: In order to which, that very Evening, I told my Wife, I was under an Obligation to meet with a Seaman at Blackwall at five in the Morning, to see a

Parcel of Goods which he had to sell ; and shou'd not be back till Change-time. Accordingly I rise about four a Clock, and went to a Friend's of mine in *Birchin-Lane*, and furnish'd my self with a very beaush Suit of Apparel, Wig, and other Accoutrements, and then went to *Threadneedle-street*, to the *Black Horse Alehouse*, and call'd for a Pot of Purl ; and by this time *St. Christophers* Bell rung to Prayers. I had planted my self next the Street, in a Room that gave me the full sight of the Church Door ; and there waited for my Wife's coming : At last I saw her near *Princes-street* end, and up she comes directly to the Church Door, and goes in : I then began to curse my self for being so credulous as to believe a Letter sent me from an unknown Person, with a Design to beget in me an ill Opinion of my Wife's unsported Vertue ; so that paying my Reckoning I went out, in order to unrig again, and go about my Business. But just as I came out of the Alehouse, I found her coming out of the Church, which made me step in again to see which way she bent her course ; and finding her go up towards the *Exchange*, I follow'd her at a distance till she came into *Broadstreet*, beyond the Church ; and there I saw her go in : This made me again correct my self for the Opinion I had entertain'd of my Wife's Vertue. And having walk'd up and down the Street for three or four minutes, I resolv'd to make use of the
Dire-

Directions in my Letter, and go in, which I did : And asking for the Gentlewoman of the House, I was had into a Parlour, and told she would be with me immediately : In the meantime, I survey'd the House, as far as I cou'd, and saw all quiet, and the House looking like some Person of Quality's : Presently in comes a Grave Old Gentlewoman to me, and thus accosted me, Would you speak with me, Sir ; Yes, Madam, said I, if you are the Mistress of the House : Yes, I am, said she, for want of a better : Then, after a reciprocal Bow, I thus began to introduce my Business : Madam, I am advis'd by a Doctor to purge my Reins this Spring Quarter, and I am told you can help a Man to a necessary Convenience for that end. Sir, reply'd she, I don't understand you very well ; but I give no Physick : But I do Madam, said I, very briskly ; and I want a fair Patient to administer it to. What Sir, said she, do you design to affront me ? Not at all Madam, said I, I thought you had understood me : In short, I want a Female Conveniency ; and I am told you can help me to one. --- You were told amiss then, I'll assure you, for I am no such Person : You've mistook the House, I believe. -- No Madam, I'm sure I'm right ; and therefore pray do me the Favour to let me at least take a Survey of the Ladies in the Dining-Room : She startl'd at that Word, and ask'd me who directed me hither ? I told her a very good Friend of mine,

as well as of hers, one *Jack Lovil*: As soon as I had nam'd *Jack Lovil*, she chang'd her Countenance for the better, and smiling upon me, told me that any Friend of his was very welcome: And immediately desir'd me to walk up stairs. Which I no sooner had done, but I was brought into a very handsome large Dining-Room adorn'd with about a dozen Pictures of Gentlewomen, and among them my own Wife; I was then convinc'd of the Truth of what my Letter told me: But being resolv'd to see the utmost, *Madam*, said I, can you help a Man to the Substance of these fair Shadows: Yes Sir, says she, they're any of 'em at your Service: Then said I, what must I give you to enjoy this Lady, (pointing to my Wife's Picture) for I fancy her better than any of the rest? Sir, said she, you choose with Judgment; there's three that chooses that Lady, for one that chooses any of the rest: I am sorry for that, said I; for I like her so well, that, if the Painter han't flatter'd her, I cou'd be willing to engross her wholly to my self: That Sir, said she, is impossible; for she's another Man's Wife, that watches her like an *Argos*; so that she only makes her Escape hither in a Morning; and that under pretence of going to a neighbouring Church to Prayers. -- And as to what you are to give me, I have a Guinea a piece, choose which you will: and I deserve more for this, being the prettiest of 'em all: But you can't have her this Morning

ing, because she is already promis'd to another whom I expect every minute. -- Look ye, Madam, said I, if the Gentleman wou'd have had her this Morning, he shou'd have come sooner; but first come, first serv'd, is a very equal Law: And therefore here's a Guinea, according to Custom; and half a Guinea for present admittance. Well, Sir, said she, You are so much a Gentleman, I don't know how to deny you. So having me up another pair of Stairs, and knocking at the Door, my Wife immediately open'd it. And the Old Bawd saying, *Madam, here's a Gentleman desires to kiss your Hand*, presently withdrew; and my Wife receiving me with a low Curſie, lock'd the Door: And having put something in my Mouth to alter my Voice, very obligingly kiss'd her Hand, and told her, That being invited by her fair Shadow below, I came up to be made happy by the Enjoyment of the fairer Substance: To which she reply'd, Sir, you are very welcome; and I wish your Satisfaction may answer your Expectation. --- But what, reply'd I, must be the purchase of so great a Happiness? To which she readily reply'd, Sir, I am no such mercenary Person, as to make Bargains with Gentlemen beforehand: I always think a free-will Offering best: And shall therefore leave my Gratification to your Generosity: But what is done, must be done out of hand, for I han't above half an Hour to tarry: Upon which fair Invitation

visitation, we both address'd our selves to the Business which we came about. ---- Whilst we were engag'd in the amorous Conflict, the Bells of *St. Peter's Poor* fell a ringing, which gave my Meretricious Spouse (for she was a Whore in the very Act, tho' she lay with her own Husband) occasion to say, Methinks *St. Peter's Bells* ring very pleasantly : Which she repeated over as oft as we renew'd our amorous Engagements. --- But her time being elaps'd, she seem'd a little uneasie, and was willing to be gone. But I perswaded her to tarry, and seem'd to be more than ordinary charm'd with her. And wou'd fain know of her what made her tye her self so strictly to the observance of such an hour ? She told me that her Husband had a great Opinion of her Vertue, which she was very willing to continue ; and that she had no time to come to this House, but in a Morning under the Notion of, going to Prayers at *St. Christopher's Church* in *Threadneedle-Street* ; and that if she were not at home after Prayers were done, it might create some Suspicion that she had been else where : I then told her, I wou'd do nothing to her Prejudice, or that might render her suspected to her Husband : And so gave her a Guinea : Which when she had receiv'd, she told me, she could not have staid so long, had not her Husband gone out very early this Morning to *Black-Wall*, and told her he shou'd not be within again till *Change-time*. --- Nay, then
said

said I, you need not make such haste ; Come, Madam, I'll send for a Bottle of Wine, and we'll talk together a little ; for I am as much charm'd with your Conversation, as with the Enjoyment I have had of your Body : She seem'd unwilling however to stay any longer : But I, (perceiving I was so transmuted by my Garb, that she didn't know me, nor could she discover me by my Voice, what I had put in my Mouth altering the Tone of my Speech) was resolved, whatever I spent, to have all out of her I cou'd, and so told her she shou'd not go yet, and thereupon put another Guinea into her Hand ; and fell a kissing of her to that degree , that we both became willing to renew our Amorous Combats again ; which having done to mutual Satisfaction, I ask'd her how she first came acquainted with this House, and whether she had any difference with her Husband, that occasion'd it ? She told me the Generosity of my Temper, and the Charms of my Performance had prevail'd with her, not only to stay an hour beyond her time, but also to give me some account of her self, and of her coming to this House : To which I only reply'd I shou'd take it for a particular Obligation. And then she thus began._____

I must own Sir, that my Education has been sober and Religious, before Marriage, and I follow'd it with some Sincerity since also : Not having any disgust for my Husband, but having all that Affection and Complacency for
him

him, that a Wife ought to have for a Husband being very well satisfy'd with his Embraces, and believing there was no difference between him and other Men. Indeed he would sometimes grumble at my asking him for Money to buy odd things for my self withal, and wou'd examine me how I laid it out; which made me think it an unhappiness, that I cou'd never have any Money, but what he was privy to. — One time above the rest, I was invited to a Christning, and ask'd my Husband for some Money, to give the Midwife, Nurse, and the Maid, which he supply'd me with indeed, but not without some Grumbling, and at a sneaking Rate beside. When I was there, I ask'd a Neighbour, an Iron-Monger's Wife, with whom I held some Correspondence, what it was proper for me to give the Midwife, what the Nurse, and what the Maid? She told me, if I wou'd come off handsomely, I cou'd give the Midwife no less than ten Shillings, the Nurse a Crown, and the Maid half a Crown, --- I told her my Husband gave me but ten Shillings to divide among 'em all :--- Your Husband, cry'd she, with some kind of Storn? Must you be at his Allowance then? Why where shou'd I have Money else, said I? O said she, if you'll be rul'd by me, I'll help you to Money enough without asking your Husband. How's that, said I? -- Come and see me to morrow, said she, and I'll tell you. -- To be short, I went, according to appointment,

pointment, and urg'd her to make good her Promise; she first exacted of me an Oath of Secrecy, which I made without any Scruple --- And she then told me, that if I would follow her Advice, and enter my self into an Academy of which she was a Member, I might get three or four Guinea's a Week, and my Husband never the wiser. -- But when she told me what it was, I was very averse to it, and urg'd the Sinfulness of it: She told me that it was a venial Sin, and wou'd be easily forgiven, and that Repentance made amends for it: And that we were not to take all that the Priests said for Gospel. And in short, perswaded me to go one day along with her to try. Telling me also she wou'd lend me Money to defray the Charge of it, if I had none to defray it. — Are you at any Charge then Madam, said I, at your Entrance here? Yes, Sir, said she, Three Guinea's; two for my Picture, and one for the Servants, — I suppose, said I, a Person of your Beauty has Customers enow: I have no reason to complain of that, said she: And indeed our Governess (for so we call the Gentlewoman that brought you to the Door) tells me that several of the Ladies enter'd here, do envy me, because there's more desires my Company than theirs. -- That may very well be, said I; for your Picture, tho' it does not do you Justice, is much more preferable than any that stands there. -- But I beg your pardon for this Diversion, Madam.

Pray

Pray go on with your Relation. ———
 When I came thither, I was had up with her,
 into her Chamber, (for each one has a particular Chamber allotted her) and then she
 calling our Governess to her, they both set
 upon me, and prevail'd with me to accept of
 the Caresses of a young Gentleman, who see
 me (it seems) go up Stairs, and was very
 earnest with her, to have to do with me.
 So I was to with-draw my self into this very
 Room, which I did, and the Gentleman
 came up to me, and being a Gentleman of a
 high Courage, tho' I yielded to him with
 the utmost unwillingness, yet I think he gave
 me that Satisfaction and Pleasure, that I never
 received before; giving me two Guinea's
 besides, and overcoming, or rather silencing
 all my Scruples, made me resolve to
 enter my self into this Academy, which I
 did accordingly. And at my entring in, the
 Governess told me, That her way was, to
 have the Gentleman that came, up into the
 Dining-Room, where they chose whom they
 lik'd by their Pictures, and then gave her a
 Guinea, and made their Bargain above, as
 well as they could: By which means we are
 assur'd none but Persons of Quality can be
 admitted, and thereby our Honours are secur'd.
 --- But Sir, says she, you must excuse
 me now, for I dare stay no longer; and so
 took her leave of me. And being ready to
 go out as soon as she; the Old Bawd came
 and took me by the Hand, and desired me to
 stay,

stay a little ; because she had something to say to me. I wonder'd what it shou'd be, and so went into the Parlour , where I staid almost a quarter of an Hour before she came to me : And then she told me, I might go when I pleas'd. I thought, said I, you had something to say to me : Nothing, Sir, said she, but to inform you, That we never let the Gentleman go, till the Person he has been withal, has been gone so long before him, that she's out of danger of being follow'd by him. A very prudent Care said I ; and so I left her, and went to my Friend and unrigg'd my self, without taking notice to him of the Particular occasion.

After I had been at Change, whither I us'd daily to go, I came home to Dinner, as I us'd to do, so that she mistrusted nothing at all, nor knew I had been with her, — I leave you to judge Gentlemen, whether what I had seen , and heard from her own Mouth, wa'n't enough to distract any Man : But I shew'd no sign of it in the least all that Afternoon. — At night, when we were in Bed, I had a mind to try whether we cou'd with the same vigour manage matters at home, as we had done abroad : But our Embraces in reality were much more dull and insipid, which made me say, *Methinks St. Peter's Bells don't ring so pleasantly to Night, as they did this Morning* ; at which Words, my Wife was for a while so confounded, and struck of a heap, that she knew not what to say :

say: Remembring very well what she had said in the Morning; but not being able to imagine how I shou'd come to know it, — At last, says she, what d'ye mean, my Dear, by *St. Peter's Bells ringing so pleasantly in the Morning*? Nay, what did you mean, said I, by repeating 'em so often to your Gallant, that lay with you this-Morning at such a House in *Broadstreet*, giving you two Guinea's for your Morning's work: How come you to know all that, said she? Nay, rather said I, how come you to be so impudent to make a common Practice of acting such Wickedness every day, under pretence of going to Prayers every Morning? Come tell me what Iron-Monger's Wife was it that first brought you acquainted with that cursed House, said I? Pray tell me that: For I am resolv'd to know the bottom of it? I believe you're distracted, said she; I know nothing of what you speak: I then told her, that I was the Person, and repeated all the foregoing Discourse: How, said she, was it you that was the Person that was so brisk with me this Morning? What, said I, do you glory in your Wickedness? Why shou'd I, said she, be more asham'd than you? Didn't I treat you very civilly: And if we both met in an ill Place, we're both alike to blame. I went thither, said I, to discover your Wickedness; and I went thither, said she, to make my self amends for your Weakness: But 'tis apparently your own Fault, said she, for if you'd

you'd be as brisk at home, as you are abroad, I shou'd be under no such Temptation: But if you fail in your Performance, no wonder my Love grows cold; and I am forc'd to make you a Cuckold in my own Defence. I was so amaz'd at her Impudence, I knew not what to say, but thought the best way was, to forgive what was past, upon her Promise to be better for the time to come.--- In a few days after this Discovery, I went to the House, took away her Picture, and threatn'd the Old Bawd to indict her: But my Wife falling sick, soon after, occasion'd I believe thro' Grief and Shame of this Discovery, which her Picture still put her in mind of, she in a few days gave up the Ghost, and left me a joyful Widower.

Batch. Sir, We both give you thanks for this Relation: Your Patience was try'd to the utmost, and I wonder, instead of breaking her Heart, it did not break yours.

Mar. Man, So far from that Sir, that he marry'd again in a little time after, it seems.

Wid. I did so indeed; but was quite off of having a Beauty, which made my first Wife so much desir'd by others.

Ba. And pray what Luck had you with her?

Wid. I think this second was worse than the first: It e'en happen'd to me according to the Old Proverb, *Seldom comes a better*: For this was such a damn'd Scold, I cou'dn't live an hour in quiet with her: She was the very Abstract of Impudence, and had a Fury
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in her Breast, exceeded those in Hell. She'd neither let me sleep, nor eat, nor drink in quiet; nay, in the very Act of Pleasure, she'd be scolding, and torturing me with the loud *Larum* of her never-ceasing Tongue. The roaring Billows of the troubled Ocean, when agitated with a mighty Wind, are calm, compar'd to her Tempestuous Tongue: The Thunder cleaves the Air with far less Violence: The Voice of Mandrakes, and the Screech-Owls Noise, with the discordant Howlings of the Wolves, are Musick, when but put in competition with her more dismal and eternal Clack. In short, not being able to vent forth all the poisonous Gall that was continually flowing from her corrupted Soul, she swell'd with Envy till she burst and dy'd: And in comparison of whom, my first Wife was a Saint.

Batch. Pray how long did she live with you?

Wid. Too long for my Repose; and yet, such was my happy Fortune, she dy'd within the Year.

Mr. M. A good riddance, I think truly. But had you not another after her.

Wid. Yes, I resolv'd to make the t'other Trial, in hopes I might at last meet with a good one.

Batch. Bravely resolv'd, I'll swear; but I think I shou'd scarce have had that Courage.

Wid. I had; but took care not to take one that had too much Tongue: I now was for an honest and good natur'd Creature;
and

and such a one I had ; but I had better have had either of the other.

Mar. M. How so, Man?

Wid. Why as to the first, cou'd I have been contented to have been a Cuckold, I cou'dn't have had a better Wife : For she was very handsome, and very neat ; and very facetious in her Conversation. The second had indeed a most unlofferable Tongue, but I cou'd go abroad, and get out of the hearing of it. But my Third was honest indeed, for no body wou'd make her a Whore ; nor wou'd she scold, for she was so confounded lazy, that she wou'd hardly take the Pains to move her Tongue, altho' it was to ask for what she wanted : she esteem'd it troublesome ; even to do nothing ; but to do any thing she thought intolerable ; and therefore every thing, but what Nature would not permit, she did by her Servants : All her Wit lay in framing Excuses for her Idleness. So nasty she was, as well as lazy, that she wou'd rather chuse to wear her Smock a Month, than be at the Trouble to shift her ; and that her Face might be of the same Hue with her Linnen, she as seldom wash'd it : Her Hair, which she never comb'd, was always so dress'd up with Cobwebs, and so matted with Filthiness, that there was no coming near her ; and I was fain to lie from her in my own defence. My second Wife might have been heard before she was seen ; and my third might

might have been smelt almost as far as the other cou'd have been heard; for her very Breath was more infectious than an Hospital; nay, the Pox it self was rather to be chosen. So that the perfectly reconcil'd me to her Predecessors; and made me think my first and second Wife were Angels in comparison to her. Her only vertue was; let me be where I wou'd, or do what I wou'd, she wou'd never contradict me, nor be angry; but this was not because she had no resentment at what I did, but because she wou'dn't give her self the trouble of speaking: My only Care was to see that she didn't poison me; but indeed seeing she was willing to poison her self, I took no great care to hinder her. For when I saw she wou'd not be reclaim'd I left her to pursue her own Methods, which in a short time brought her to the Grave; where I was very glad to leave her.

Batch. Truly and so shou'd I have been too; For I never heard of the like of her. -- But Sir, Don't you intend to take another Tryal?

VVid. Not I, Sir, I'll assure ye; I'll tempt my Fortune no further: For shou'd I try again, what cou'd I expect, but either the Devil or his Dam.

Batch. No, Sir, I wou'dn't advise ye to't; for that wou'd be Incest.

VVid. How d'ye mean Incest?

Batch. Why you have had the Devil's Daughters already; and if you shou'd have his Dam too, I think that wou'd be Incest.

VVid.

Widower You're in the right on't, Sir.

Batch. Well but now after all, you that have had so much Experience, what wou'd you advise me to, about a Wife? For that's the Business that engag'd us in this Discourse.

Wid. You say well, Sir: And therefore I'll conclude what I have to say to you in that Case with what Advice a stale Bachelor has already given the World, and left to his Companions as his last Legacy, in his Lecture for a Libertine.

' Beware of Women, for you know they
' are ticklish Commodities, and their Affe-
' ctions as brittle as the *China* Ware they de-
' light in. If you chuse a Woman for a Wife,
' take care she be neither over-Wise, nor
' over-Handsome; for generally the more
' Beautiful they are, the more Proud; and
' the more Witty, the more Wicked. But
' above all, if ever you venture to step into
' the Ecclesiastical Shackles, be sure you are
' well paid for wearing them: For you ought
' to consider they are much worse than
' *Newgate-Fetters*; for the Mercenary Cer-
' berus that rivets on those, for a little grea-
' sing in the Fist, will knock them off again:
' But the other are lock'd on so confoundedly
' fast, that nothing but Death or Adultery
' can release the Prisoner from his Confine-
' ment. Therefore I advise you to look wari-
' ly, before you leap into that Thicket of Bram-
' bles, Wedlock; lest you soon find Cause to
' praise Matrimony with Tears in your Eyes,
' as

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'as Men do Mustard. If you have a mind to
'scape Cuckoldom, never let your Wife go
'to Church by her self; for Lust and Devotion
'are as often Companions at Church, as
'Religion and Bawdy are over a Bottle at
'a Tavern: Leave no Man at home to play
'at Cards with her, whilst you step to the
'Coffee-House to read the News; for remember,
'the Business of Cuckold-making,
'is always done with a Jerk.

Batch. Upon my Word, 'tis very good
Counsel; and I'll endeavour to take it.

Wid. But pray let me give ye one Caution
more, in Verse; because 'tis the product of my
own Experience: I have wonder'd, that in
the description I have given you of my three
Wives, neither of you enquir'd into the Motive
I had to marry 'em.

Mar. M. I was two or three times about
to ask that Question, but afterwards forgot it.

Batch. And so was I too, I'll assure ye:
But pray tell us now.

Wid. Why truly it was one Motive prevail'd
with me in all, and that was good store of Money:
I had great Portions with each of 'em; and
that made it tolerable: And therefore from
my Experience, learn the following Lesson.

*If any will not be fore-warn'd,
But run the risque of being Horn'd:
Ne'er let him Wed because She's comely,
But choose a Rich One, tho' She's homely:
Then if she proves Slut, Whore, or Scold,
Perverse, Rebellious, Ugly, Old,
Or any other Plague that's worse,
Her Coyne will counterpoise the Curse.*

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The Pleasures of a single Life.

I Sing the Pleasures of a single Life,
 When free from Mankind's greatest Plague, a Wife:
 The World seem'd then a Paradise: The Soil
 So fertile was, that Bus'ness was no Toil:
 Life was a Comfort that produc'd each day
 New Joys, that still preserv'd me from Decay:
 Thus Heav'n first launch'd me in pacifick Seas,
 Where free from Storms, I mov'd with gentle Breez
 My Sails proportion'd, and my Vessel tight,
 Coasting in Pleasure's Bay I steer'd aright (light.
 Ballac'd with true Content, and freighted with De-
 Books my Companions were, wherein I found
 Needful Advice, without a Noisy Sound.
 And was with friendly pleasing Silence taught,
 Wisdom's best Rules to fructifie my Thought:
 Then on the Wings of Contemplation hurl'd,
 I'd in my Study travel round the World;
 To foreign Shores immediately resort,
 And see the Glories of each Princes Court.

The Day in these Enjoyments wou'd I spend,
 But choose at Night my Bottle and my Friend:
 Took prudent Care that neither were abus'd,
 But with due Moderation both I us'd:
 And in one sober Pint found more Delight,
 Than the insatiate Sot that swills all Night:
 Ne'er drown my Senses, nor my Soul debase,
 Nor drink beyond the relish of my Glass.
 For in Excess, good Heav'n's Design is cross'd;
 In all Extreame the true Enjoyment's lost.
 Wine cheers the Heart, and elevates the Soul;
 But if we surfeit with too large a Bowl,
 Wanting true Aim, we th' happy Mark o'er-shoot,
 And change the heav'nly Image to a Brute.

When Nature call'd, I laid me down to rest,
 With a sound Body, and a peaceful Brest;

Hours

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*Hours of Repose with Constancy I kept,
And Guardian Angels watch'd me as I slept :
Thus while I single liv'd, did I possess
By Day and Night incessant Happiness.*

*But Fate did soon my Happiness betray,
By slinging Faithless Woman in my way:
Beauty she had enough to draw me in ;
All Charms without, but Devil all within :
A fair Complexion, far exceeding Paint ;
Black sleeping Eyes, that wou'd have charm'd a Saint :
Her Shape so ravishing that ev'ry part
Proportion'd was to th' Nicest Rules of Art.
So awful was her Carriage when she mov'd,
None could behold her, but he fear'd and lov'd :
I soon was took, and rashly plung'd my Life
Into that Bag of Miseries, a Wife ;
Thus I with joyful Arms embrac'd my Fate,
Believ'd too soon, was Undeceiv'd too late.
For after all Endearments I cou'd show,
She quickly turn'd both Libertine and Shrow ;
From my Submission, grew perverse, and Proud ;
Crabbed as Verjuice, and as Thunder loud :
And was both Head-Strong, Turbulent, and Lewd,
Filling my Mansion, with a Spurious Brood :
Till Brutal Lust her humane Reason drown'd,
And her loose Tail oblig'd the Country round :
Scorn'd by her Equals, my own Servants fed
The Brutal Rage of her Adult'rous Bed :
Nay in my absence, truckl'd to my Groom,
And hugg'd the servile Traitor in my room.*

*On these just Grounds, for a Divorce I ju'd,
And so that head strong Tyrant, Wife, subdu'd.
Cancell'd the Marriage-Bonds, and Bastardiz'd
(her Brood.*



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